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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Naraja: No jurisdiction over Dela Cruz's voter challenge

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja ruled yesterday that the court has no jurisdiction over the voters' challenge that was among the issues that incumbent Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz's brought up in his election contest.

Saipan Tribune learned that Naraja gave the oral order in granting Tinian mayor-elect Joey Patrick San Nicolas' motion to dismiss yesterday morning at the Tinian Superior Court.

Naraja, however, still placed under advisement the Commonwealth Election Commission's separate motion to dismiss Dela Cruz's lawsuit.

Despite the ruling, the evidentiary hearing still pushed through yesterday on Tinian because Dela Cruz's lawsuit alleges that there were some irregularities during the Nov. 4 general elections.

Attorney Viola Alepuyo, Matthew Gregory's co-counsel for San Nicolas, told *Saipan Tribune* that Naraja basically ruled that because Dela Cruz did not challenge those voters in the man-

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'A lot hinges on passage of Kilili's bills'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

If all comes to fruition, the CNMI can expect about 9,800 additional hotel rooms to potentially spur the CNMI to a peak it last hit in the '90s, according to Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan. However, this could all go up in smoke if legislations being pushed by Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan at the 11th hour are

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COMMONWEALTH WEAPONS ACT

Inos: We're prepared if court shoots it down

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said his administration is prepared in the event the Commonwealth Weapons Act is declared unconstitutional by the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

"This is a constitutional issue and—although I don't want to preempt any court proceedings that's going on right now—we will be prepared in the event the court shoots down the CNMI gun law. We're prepared to initiate legislation that will be consistent with, No. 1, the U.S. Constitution and, No. 2, the court ruling that might come out shooting down the CNMI gun law," said Inos in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

The governor said he would support legislation that will make it very difficult for any-

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CLOSE TO COMPLETION

JAYSON CAMACHO

An over $4 million road improvement project from Kagman to Capital Hill is close to completion. This project, called Phase II-B of the Cross Island Road or Isa Drive Improvement Project, is funded both by Federal Highway Administration funds and ARRA money. Construction workers yesterday started applying CTBs into the areas of the not-yet completed sections.

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Eighty-one students take part in the Chamber's Career Exploration Day.

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Islamic militants kill 36 non-Muslims in Kenya—most with a gunshot to the head.

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Supermodels, million-dollar bras—it can only be a Victoria's Secret show.

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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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Local

Chamber's Career Exploration Day hosts 81 students

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

DAVID B. CHAN
Businessmen and women brought their young protégés along during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's general membership meeting yesterday.

Eighty-one students participated in the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Career Exploration Day yesterday. High school students from both private and public schools joined professionals from all over the island to get a glimpse of workforce life.

Phillip Lee and Woori Lee joined a T Galleria supervisor for their exploration. They attended an orientation, visited the airport to see how products from other countries are received, taken cared of, and brought to the T Galleria, Phillip Lee said.

"We walked around what's in there, and learned how merchandising works, how the retail team works, and how the Duty Free and airport circulates products and sells it to customers, and how it's related to tourism," Woori Lee said.

Would she like to get into retail? Woori said she is "thinking about it," and added she is now considering working at DFS.

Before yesterday, Nemie Baiza from Marianas High School thought that accounting was all about counting on calculators but later realized that "we all really need accounting" in our lives. Baiza now actually thinks he'd like to be an accountant. He joined Maggie Crisostomo, from Kagman High School, at Pacific Insurance Underwriters.

Crisostomo, who said she would like to be a journalist, noticed that the staff at Pacific Underwriters all seemed "really close." She liked their "one-on-one" approach to customer service and would keep that in mind if she ever gets into customer service herself.

Justin Youm and Sky Izuka, seniors from Grace Christian Academy, spent the morning with Micronesia Brokers. Youm spent time with its general manager, and Izuka with the sales manager.

"It was a great experience to learn how the company works just by talking with different people who actually work at the company, and learning how to be a manager of a bigger company," he said.

He said he has no intention of becoming a businessman but wants to tie marketing with his main pursuit: engineering.

"Since engineering is also a business, it is enticing customers to buy engineering products. It was really a precious experience for me to see how the business works so I can tie it with my future career," he said.

Izuka is aiming to major in business administration. He learned about how it is to be business representative who advertises for many other companies and stores.

"It really helped me," he said.

Salvation Army solicits toys for drive

The NMI Salvation Army is asking if it is in the community's hearts to donate two unwrapped toys—one for younger kids and the other for older ones—for their holiday toy drive. The range for these toys should be for children from ages 0 to 18, according to ministry leader Wade Gillespie, who announced the drive at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's general membership meeting yesterday.

"We're asking it if it is in your heart to donate a couple of toys," he told the crowd.

Drop-off points as of now are at both Bank of Hawaii branches, Gillespie said. They will have boxes out at Christmas trees placed out front for these toys, he added.

He said another corporate sponsor would be announced soon. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING PROGRAM

Babies learn from the time they are born. One of the ways they learn is through hearing. When a baby is born with hearing loss, many sounds and voices are not heard, and the child's speech and language development can be delayed. CHCC implemented newborn hearing as a standard of care and all babies get their hearing screened shortly after birth.

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Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Printing funded by the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Grant under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Service Administration.

BEST SUNSHINE PARENT OFFERS 510M NEW SHARES

Imperial Pacific looks to raise $99.8M for Saipan casino project

The parent company of Best Sunshine International Ltd. is looking to raise close to $1 billion by offering up to 510 million new shares to finance its $7.1-billion integrated casino resort project on Saipan.

GRRAsia, an online newsletter about the casino industry in Asia, reported that Hong Kong-based Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd. has agreed to place a maximum of 510 million new shares in a bid to raise $99.8 million.

In its filing at the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, Imperial Pacific disclosed that "the funds will be used as general working capital, including financing the relevant costs and expenses for the casino project on the Pacific island of Saipan."

GRRAsia reported that the new shares will be priced at HKD1.55 apiece, a discount of approximately 7.19 percent to the closing price of HKD1.67 per share on Tuesday.

"The maximum gross proceeds and the maximum net proceeds from the placing will be approximately HKD791 million and HKD774 million respectively," said Imperial Pacific in its filing.

GRRAsia added that the maximum number of placing shares represents about 6.37 percent of the entire issued share capital of the firm and approximately 5.99 percent of the enlarged capital.

Imperial Pacific's filing last Tuesday said its board considers "that the placing represents a good opportunity to broaden the shareholder base and capital base of the company and to raise certain required capital of the group."

Best Sunshine's $7.1-billion integrated casino resort on Saipan involves the construction of 4,200 hotel rooms and 300 villas, a 600-seat theater, 10,000-square-meter casino floor, 10,000-square-meter retail area, over 20 F&B outlets, and a theme park.

Last Nov. 19, Imperial Pacific filed with the Hong Kong Stock Exchange that it has been allowed by the CNMI government to bring in outside investors and offer up to 49 percent of the issued share capital of the company.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said Best Sunshine's parent company offering up to 49 percent of its issues shares to outside investors is within its rights under the casino license agreement with the CNMI Lottery Commission. He said the local government would only be concerned if Best Sunshine's investment in the $7.1-billion integrated casino project dips below 51 percent. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Motion to reconsider dismissal of charges vs Fitial under advisement

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has placed under advisement Office of the Public Auditor legal counsel George Hasselback's motion for the judge to reconsider his dismissal of the criminal charges against former governor Benigno R. Fitial.

Hasselback also asked the court to allow four charges in the information to proceed, saying he has two independent sources of authority to prosecute those four charges.

The four counts refer to alleged criminal activity associated with the escort of former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham on Aug. 3 to 4, 2012.

Hasselback insisted that OPA has the authority to file the charges against Fitial because it was Wiseman himself and the Office of the Attorney General that gave him that authority.

Hasselback cited that on Aug. 17, 2012, Wiseman appointed him as a special prosecutor "to ensure the fair administration of justice." He said the appointment was specifically limited to the investigation and prosecution of matters or persons connected to the charges filed by the government against Buckingham.

Hasselback also noted that on July 3, 2013, then-AG Joey Patrick San Nicolas appointed him as a special assistant attorney general to "complete accounting" of the events surrounding Buckingham's escort.

Fitial's counsel, Stephen J. Nutting, argued that Wiseman correctly found that OPA's authority to prosecute the governor ceased when he no longer was the governor.

Nutting said Hasselback's prior appointment to prosecute "the AG" was not an appointment to prosecute "the governor." Nutting said Hasselback suggests that Wiseman failed to consider his prior appointment and such was clear error.

Nutting said it is more likely, however, that the court recognized that the prior appointment

See MOTION on Page 4

Greenscaping planned for Paseo

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Using funds provided by the Marianas Visitors Authority, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce is pushing ahead with plans to install trees at the Paseo de Marianas. This, according to Chamber president Alex Sablan, would complement MVA's planned "Flower Island" project in the same area.

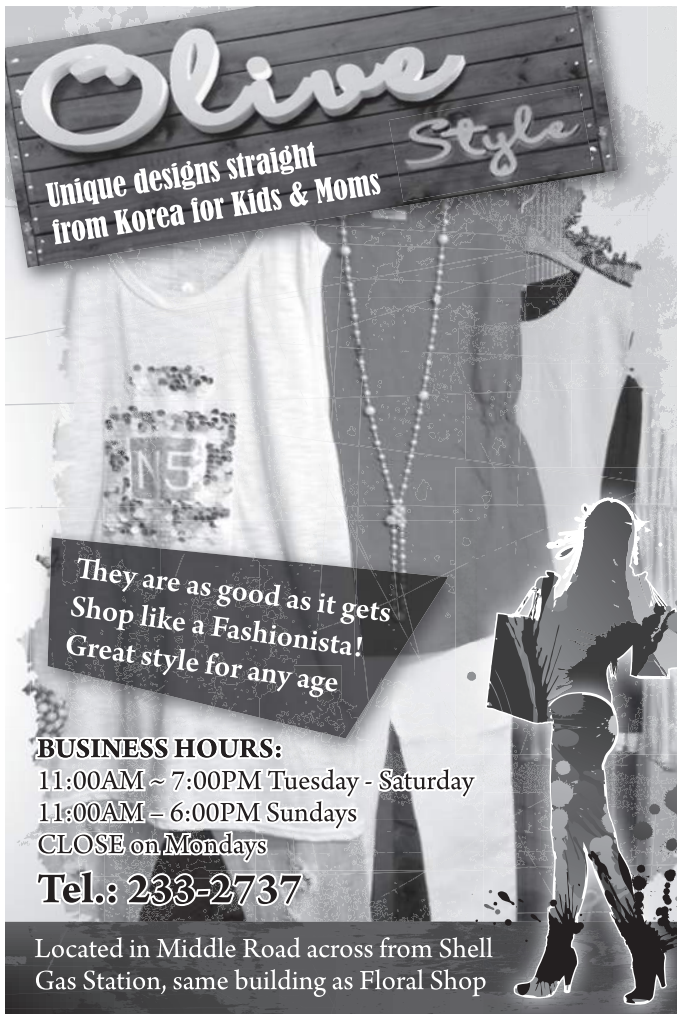
"What we intend to do is eventually put in greenscapes in the PDM to hopefully cool it down. The concrete makes it such a hot environment we want to put in larger shade trees—greenscapes—o make it more environmentally friendly as well," he said.

He said the Chamber is working with architect Chris Fryling of N15 Architects for the future redevelopment of the area. Funding is in place for design and development, he said, but funding for the actual construction would come later.

Chamber hopes to have the designs in and completed by next month, he said, adding that they have planned it to complement MVA's "Flower Island" project, which intends to blanket the island with flowering plants.

MVA is working with Japanese landscape architect Junichi Inada and local architects and engineers on the project. As reported earlier, they are targeting Banzai Cliff and the Paseo to begin the transformation of the island with such the planting of flowers like Bougainvillea, Cordyline, hibiscus, orchids, and anthuriums.

Seven "zones" on island are eyed for the flower project. These include a "welcome zone" at the airport area, an eco-corridor at the east side, a flower corridor along the west, a paradise zone for Managaha, a flower garden zone for the island's northside memorials, and a wildflower mountain zone on Mt. Tapochau.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BECQ takes up geothermal exploration application

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Division of Coastal Resource Management will be holding a regulatory meeting today at their office in Gualo Rai to take up the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s application for a geothermal exploratory well permit.

If the division approves issuing the permit, CUC's geothermal energy project will be closer to completing the permitting process.

"This meeting or hearing is for the DCRM major siting permit for the geothermal feasibility project. It is only one part of the ongoing permitting process to begin drilling. The contractor, 4-i's CNMI, is the lead for permitting the project," said CUC executive director Alan Fletcher said.

Maevelle Energy was awarded the contract in a joint venture with 4i's CNMI LLC and Alexander Drilling of CNMI to assess the geothermal resource potential for Saipan.

Fletcher said that Maximino Simian, a registered geologist, will be in attendance for CUC at today's meeting.

Fletcher explained that CUC has to go through the permitting stage first before it can progress on its geothermal explorations drilling in Gualo Rai.

"The local and federal permitting processes for this project are onerous. The DCRM permit is just one step in the process," he said.

CUC board chair David J. Sablan earlier said that a federally funded digging intended to find additional water wells in Gualo Rai turned into a geothermal resource assessment when the contractor discovered increasing water temperatures as they dug deeper.

New grant cycles for Humanities Council

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council, which awards competitive grants every year, has new grant cycles submission for the year 2015 for those organizations in need of grants.

The submission dates for all type of community grants are Dec. 31, 2014, March 30, 2015, June 30, 2015, and Sept. 30, 2015.

"The Humanities Council wants to advise the public regarding new submission deadlines for community grant applications for the 2015 grant cycle," said program officer Eulalia Villagomez.

Villagomez said that the council meets in regular sessions in January, April, July, and October with the board members and announces grant decisions with 30 to 45 days of the grant deadline.

The council awards these grants to any non-profit organization, institution, group or ad hoc committee and also supports a wide range of humanities projects consistent with the goals and objectives of its strategic plan.

"Our purpose is to promote understanding and appreciation of the humanities in the NMI. Making use of funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the council awards grants projects," Villagomez said.

Grant guidelines and forms can be obtained from the Humanities Council office in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai, or downloaded from the council's website, www.northernmarianashumanities.org

For more information about the council's Community Grants Program, contact staff at 235-4785. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

NARAJA

From Page 1

ner provided by law, the court does not have jurisdiction over the issue.

Alepuyo said the law states that voter eligibility has to be challenged before the election or on the day of the election itself.

"Therefore, Dela Cruz cannot bring the voters' challenge," she said.

Dela Cruz alleges, among others, that CEC allowed seven ineligible voters to vote on Tinian.

After yesterday's evidentiary hearing, Naraja ordered the parties—Dela Cruz, San Nicolas, and CEC—to file any motions by 8:30am today, Thursday.

Naraja will hear the motions at 9:30am today, Thursday, at the Saipan Superior Court.

Saipan Tribune learned that no witnesses were called to the stand at yesterday's evidentiary hearing.

The CEC board, executive director Robert A. Guerrero, and CEC staff only reconciled the ballots, the voter roster, absentee voter application for ballots, confined voters, and other things.

Both San Nicolas and Dela Cruz appeared at the packed proceeding. San Nicolas appeared with counsel Gregory and Alepuyo. Attorney Mark Hanson served as counsel for Dela Cruz.

The hearing began at 9am and ended at 5:30pm.

At the recounting of votes on Monday at the Tinian Superior Court, San Nicolas still prevailed over Dela Cruz, this time by nine votes, 705-696. San Nicolas of the Republican Party first won by seven votes, 703-696, over Dela Cruz (Independent) during the first counting of votes. CEC has already certified that initial result.

MOTION

From Page 3

did not include a criminal action against "the governor."

In his dismissal order last Nov. 6, Wiseman ruled that OPA has no authority to file the charges against Fitial, now a private citizen, and that the AG retains prosecutorial authority over such an action when the defendant is not currently in office.

OPA filed 13 charges against Fitial. The charges are related to the unauthorized release of a federal inmate, award of a sole-source American Recovery and Reinvestment Act contract, shielding of Buckingham from being served with penal summons, and the execution of a power purchase agreement contract related to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Fitial pleaded not guilty to all charges. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

BILLS

From Page 1

not passed.

In an interview yesterday, the Chamber president said that based on potential new projects declared by new investors, the Chamber is looking at almost 9,800 new rooms for the CNMI.

The new total accounts for proposed E Land, Honest Profit, and Best Sunshine hotel and casino developments, among other hotel developments, according to Sablan.

He said there are "thousands of jobs attached" to Delegate Sablan's legislation to extend the asylum time bar, the E-2C foreign investment visas—which account for 200-plus investors in the CNMI, according to the president—and legislation to exempt the CNMI from the H2 visa cap.

The bills would extend for five years the bar on applications for asylum in the Northern Mariana Islands, the exemption for Guam and the Northern Marianas from the national numerical cap on H visas, and the E-2C visa for investors grandfathered in from the Commonwealth's immigration laws.

"If we do not get these [bills] passed, we potentially will lose the parole status of the Chinese and we will lose 200-plus foreign investors who will not stay around to change their visa from E-2C to whatever else is available," he said.

The parole authority as granted to Chinese and Russian tourists by the Department of Homeland Security allows these tourist to enter the CNMI without a visa.

"The problem we have is there is a limitation in the current foreign investment visa requirements [where] a development has to be at least a half a million dollars or more investment. A lot of these small businesses don't fall in that route; they fall in the current E-2C, which is $50,000 or more. To lose this backbone in our economy because we don't have the extension, it will be an extreme hit to our bottom-line here," he said.

Inevitably, he said, the CNMI would see these businesses up and sell, or leave.

In the "bigger picture" is losing the asylum time bar, Sablan said. This would hamper the CNMI's ability to maintain the parole status for Chinese visitors, he said.

"If that parole status goes away, obviously the Chinese visitors, the Chinese market goes away with it. And that is a significant market. It is already one-third of our visitor arrival market in the CNMI, and is potentially the biggest growth market by far over the next decade or two," he said

The Japan market would not be expected to make up for this loss with its current recession and devaluation of the yen. He said the Chamber is concerned the Japan market will not grow.

"[The yen has] dropped 40 percent in the year and a half. That obviously does not spell well for tourism because it becomes a little more expensive to come here, and if they are going to go off someplace and spend that money they are going to go off in another direction," he said.

The additional rooms would be the greatest number of rooms the CNMI has ever had. If the CNMI could fill those rooms, Sablan said, it could experience about a million and half to 2 million visitors a year.

Right now, rooms are double what they used to be in 1997, the CNMI's best year, according to Sablan. With 726,000 tourists that year, the existing 33,000 rooms were made up of the existing rooms the CNMI has today plus the Palms Resort and the Plumeria and Riviera hotels, which have all closed in years past.

"The hotels that are not here that contributed to that opportunity—Palms, Plumeria, and Riviera—all those three helped contribute to the overall number. Because they are not open we are not able to grow the market. We are hopeful with the E-Land builds, the Best Sunshine development, and the Honest Profit development, the reopening of Palms, Coral Ocean Point, and the Riviera Hotel that we can spur the growth to hit our 700,000 mark probably in a year to a year-and-half," he said.

Down the line, he personally thinks that Best Sunshine may have to "rethink" their plans if the Chinese market were to go away.

"The casinos attach largely to the Chinese market—obviously they would like to entice every market—but a Chinese developer would pursue Chinese tourists. So we believe the market will be impacted dramatically without this legislation passed at the end of the year."

In its history, the CNMI has not seen the stability of room allocations and percentages at 75 to almost 80 percent year round since the height of the tourism boom in 1997. If the CNMI wants to continue to see 75 to 80 percent room occupancy, it would have to build all markets but especially the Chinese market, according to Sablan.

INOS

From Page 1

one to obtain a license to own handguns.

"Possession, ownership, and stuff like that, we couldn't do much about that, but how do you get there…the licenses to the wholesaler, to the distributor, strict background checks for guns and ammunition is what we're looking at."

Press secretary Angel Demapan said Senate floor leader Pete Reyes' (Ind-Saipan) prefiled bill has the support of the governor as well as Department of Public Safety Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero and Attorney General Gilbert Birnbrich.

"In fact, the OAG and the DPS commissioner worked together in putting the bill together. We cannot maintain the status quo of gun regulation in the CNMI because of recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions. AG Birnbrich stated that the pending bill is good because it will accommodate every individual's constitutional rights as declared by the courts while still maintaining public safety," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The bill Demapan was referring to is Senate Bill 18-69, which was prefiled last Oct. 16 by Reyes. It is a measure "to provide for the possession and management of firearms in the Commonwealth."

'Strike and balance'

DPS chief Deleon Guerrero said it is unfortunate that someone has challenged the constitutionality of the Commonwealth Weapons Act. Just the same, he feels the challenge was inevitable.

"There is no better law than the current Weapons Control Act. However, we feel that there's a high likelihood that the particular law we have here in the CNMI will be rendered unconstitutional and in violation of the Second Amendment. The CNMI when it entered in political union with the United States, the Second Amendment became applicable to the CNMI as a territory. …We need to prepare ourselves in the event that the Weapons Control Act gets thrown put by the courts and one of the ways to prepare ourselves is to come up with legislation that provides a strike and balance between having the most strict form of gun legislation versus meeting the requirements of the Second Amendment," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said DPS, in consultation with the Office of Attorney General, reviewed the best gun laws in the country and picked provisions that would better suit the CNMI.

"What our the department has done is made extensive research through our legal counsel and looked at what other jurisdictions have; like which of the jurisdictions have the strictest form of gun law. We kind of combined them all together and sort of tailor-made them to the situation here. It's currently with the Senate and DPS has already submitted its comments."

Deleon Guerrero said the CNMI community must learn to face reality—firearms will eventually be legalized here in the Commonwealth.

"We don't want this. So we would prefer to have a strict gun laws in place. The CNMI, especially my department, should be put into a situation where it has the capacity to be able to provide a number of services after this becomes law. We have to start having two-man patrols units throughout the villages and this would require more police officers."

He said DPS would eventually have to start deploying police officers to schools to prevent mass shooting at campuses, which unfortunately has become a common occurrence in the U.S. mainland.

"We don't want to have copycat incidents here."

Deleon Guerrero added that a lot of regulatory agencies that were not previously armed will now have to be armed because of the Commonwealth Weapons Act will become unconstitutional.

"In my opinion, the less guns we have, the better off it is. If you were to give me a choice between having more guns out there and us having more weapons to defend ourselves against this type of menace versus passing a law that will disarm all law enforcers, I prefer not to carry guns. If you were to give me a choice, I would prefer that police officers do not get armed or nobody gets armed as opposed to actually having high-power rifles to defend ourselves against pistols and things like that," he said.

David J. Radich, a U.S. Navy Gulf War veteran, and his wife has filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands challenging the constitutionality of the CNMI Weapons Control Act that prohibits all residents from obtaining handguns for self-defense purposes. Radich's wife suffered serious injuries during a home invasion on Saipan in 2010.

James Balajadia to be ordained a priest on Dec. 13

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

As the Catholic community counts down to Deacon James Balajadia's ordination, the Saipan native says it is a "dream come true for him to become a priest for the people of the CNMI."

Balajadia, a 2007 alumnus of Mount Carmel School, was welcomed to the Holy Order as a transitional deacon in October. This Saturday, Dec. 13, 2014, Balajadia will be ordained a priest at Mount Carmel Cathedral at 10am.

Balajadia told *Saipan Tribune* he is elated to have the opportunity to serve the people who invited him to consider the priesthood as God's call in his life.

"I'm especially excited because I will be a priest for our people here in this Diocese of Chalan Kanoa," he said. "My family, friends, and the community have been nothing but supportive throughout my whole preparation for the day of my ordination as a priest. Their constant encouragement means so much to me."

Balajadia's seven-year journey in the seminary leading to his ordination was not without obstacles to overcome.

"Throughout my years in the seminary there were times when I wanted to just give up, quit, or take a very long break from it all."

But, he said, there was also a lot joy.

"The joys of learning more about the faith, meeting people from all parts of the world, and just experiencing God's providence and love in life. I've also had a lot of fun while on this road, making friends from all over. And if I had to do it all over again, I really would," he said.

"Of course, I was never alone in this journey…God gave me so many people to accompany me through this whole adventure," he added.

He hopes his story serves as an inspiration for youth to be faithful to the Gospel and practice their faith.

"When you give yourself completely to God, the Lord will raise you and lead you to places you never even dreamed of," he said.

As a soon-to-be priest in the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, Balajadia said it will be his primary goal to guide, teach, and encourage people to live out the Gospel.

"I will have to show them, by word and example, the way to Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and life."

THOMAS A. MANGLONA

From left, James' father Victor Balajadia, Deacon James Balajadia, his grandmother Virginia Balajadia, and mother Elizabeth Balajadia after his diaconate ordination in October at the Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Veterans to voice out concerns, suggestions at today's town hall

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Two representatives of the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs will be hosting a town hall meeting today, Dec. 4, to listen to the concerns and suggestions of CNMI veterans.

VA Pacific Islands Health Care System director Wayne Pfeffer and VA's Veteran Benefit Administration Regional Office director Tracey Betts will be meeting with veterans at the American Memorial Park's Visitor's Center Theater from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

According to Saipan VA Outreach Clinic coordinator Ruth Coleman, the two officials are from Honolulu, Hawaii and will give veterans here the opportunity to voice their concerns, suggestions, and learn about the VA's many programs.

"This will bring them up-to-date on the services they can avail of from the VA, for services on both health and benefits," Coleman said.

In an email yesterday, Patricia Teran-Matthews, VA Pacific Islands Health Care System public affairs officer, said the VA wants to hear directly from the veterans.

"Leadership wants to make sure that Saipan veterans are aware of this meeting and afforded the opportunity to voice any suggestion or concerns they may have about VA," Matthews stated.

Among the concerns veterans can inquire about are quality of or access to healthcare, benefits such as disability compensation, vocational rehabilitation, and others.

"The two representatives are travelling there [Saipan] to be present to listen to concerns and share some updates," Matthews said.

She noted that VA Pacific Islands Healthcare System has been traveling to different sites across the 2.6 million square miles of area it services and supports. Both Guam and Saipan trips are part of these efforts to reach out to veterans.

"This is a VA-wide initiative to conduct town halls in the community to hear what the veterans have to say and, hopefully, also reach people who have served in the military who are unfamiliar with VA and inform or educate them about benefits they may be unaware of or have not yet used," she said.

Coleman is encouraging everybody to attend the town hall meeting today so that they could learn from VA and be heard.

Ex-cop gets 9 months in prison for using 'ice' again

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court has revoked the supervised release of former police officer Florencio Q. Richards and slapped him with a nine-month prison term for violating his probation by repeatedly using methamphetamine or "ice."

At a hearing on Tuesday afternoon, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona also ordered that upon Richards' release, he will be placed on 24 months of supervised release.

Among the conditions of his supervised release is that he shall participate in a substance abuse treatment program and refrain from the use of any alcohol.

Richards appeared with court-appointed counsel Michael Evangelista. He admitted to the allegations in the U.S. Probation Office's petition for the revocation of his supervised release.

Assistant U.S. attorney Russell Lorfing stated the factual basis of the violations and recommended revoking Richard's supervised release and imposing a nine-month prison term.

Evangelista recommended revoking Richard's release and modifying his current release conditions. Evangelista stated that Richards never denied the violations and that he is seeking help for his illness, such as the Lighthouse Recovery Center in Guam.

Manglona entered a finding that Richards did in fact violate his conditions of supervised release.

Probation officer Gregory F. Arriola said that, although Richards denied the allegation on that day of Sept. 8, 2014, he has admitted to all the other violations.

In the petition, Arriola disclosed that Richards tested positive for using "ice" twice in September and twice in October. Arriola added that Richards failed to participate in a substance abuse program.

In July, Arriola also told the court that Richards has not complied with the conditions of his supervision by using "ice" on May 31 and June 1, 2014.

Richards also failed to report for drug testing on May 30 and 31, and June 3, 2014. He failed to report for a counseling session on June 3, 2014.

At the time, Arriola warned Richards that the next positive drug test will result in court action.

In August 2011, the court sentenced Richards to 24 months in prison for distributing "ice" while he was still an active officer.

At the sentencing, Richards told the court that he deeply regrets his actions. He apologized to his family and the community for "betraying their trust and confidence in him."

"I found that I'm not alone with this trouble—my addiction to drugs and alcohol. I want to stand on my two feet again and support my family," he stated.

Last Jan. 30, Manglona revoked the supervised release of Richards and sent him to three months in prison with credit for time served for using "ice" again. The judge ordered that after serving the three months in prison, the defendant will be placed on 33 months of supervised release.

Rota delegation urges Mendiola to work with Atalig on transition

The Rota Legislative Delegation passed a resolution on Tuesday urging incumbent Rota Mayor Melchor A. Mendiola to work with mayor-elect Efraim M. Atalig in ensuring a smooth transition for the Rota municipal government.

Atalig, who ran under the NMI Republican Party banner, beat independent candidate Mendiola in the general elections last Nov. 4 by 70 votes, 797-727.

Rota Legislative Delegation Resolution 18-11, authored by Rep. Teresita Santos (R-Rota), passed by three affirmative votes. Santos, Senate Vice President Victor Hocog (Ind-Rota) and Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) all voted yes, while Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) was excused.

Resolution No. 18-11 sought "to respectfully seek the support of incumbent Mayor Melchor Atalig Mendiola to provide assistance and cooperation toward Rota mayor-elect Efraim Manglona Atalig's transition team for the sole purpose of ensuring that the Rota municipal government will have a smooth and orderly transition."

The resolution added that mayor-elect Atalig's transition team plays an important role in the development of an action plan to ensure that the Rota municipal government will have a smooth and orderly transition.

MARK RABAGO
The Rota Legislative Delegation met last Tuesday inside the conference room of Senate Vice President Victor B. Hocog (Ind-Rota). In attendance were RLD chair Rep. Teresita A. Santos (R-Rota), Hocog, Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), as well as legislative staff.

"Atalig seeks assistance and cooperation from incumbent Mayor Melchor Atalig Mendiola in instructing all resident department heads to work in collaboration with the Rota mayor-elect's transition team."

Resolution No. 18-11 noted that the Rota Legislative Delegation is appreciative of Mendiola's cooperation in providing assistance to Atalig's transition team and that a smooth and orderly transition between the incoming and outgoing mayor would greatly benefit the citizens of the First Senatorial District. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Andersen base gears up for 'Christmas Drop'

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam—Andersen Air Force Base will host the "Push Ceremony" for the 63rd Annual Operation Christmas Drop here on Dec. 9 at 9am.

This year, volunteers from the 36th Wing collected an estimated 51,000 lbs of supplies, non-perishable food items and toys that will be air-dropped to 55 islands throughout the Micronesian and Palauan islands between Dec. 9 and 14 by C-130 Hercules aircrews from the 374th Airlift Wing at Yokota Air Base, Japan.

Operation Christmas Drop is the longest-running humanitarian mission supported by the Department of Defense. The annual mission began in 1952 when an aircrew assigned to Andersen was flying over the Micronesian island of Kapingamarangi when they noticed residents waving to them. The crew decided to gather some items they had on the plane, which they placed in a container with a parachute attached and dropped the cargo as they circled.

Since then, more than 850,000 lbs of supplies have been dropped throughout the region containing approximately 30,000 residents. ***(AAFB)***

Probable cause found to charge teacher and habitual offender

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has found probable cause to warrant the filing of charges against a teacher and a habitual offender in connection with separate burglary and theft incidents.

At a preliminary hearing on Tuesday afternoon, Camacho found probable cause to charge George Lieto Jr. with burglary and theft.

Camacho also found probable cause to charge Ramon Cabrera Blas with burglary, theft, criminal trespass, and disturbing the peace.

The judge ordered Lieto and Blas to respond to the charges.

Arraignment will be on Monday at 9am.

Assistant attorneys general Emily Cohen and Shannon Foley appeared for the government in both cases. Court-appointed counsel Matthew Holley appeared for Lieto. Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer served as counsel for Blas.

Lieto, a 30-year-old teacher, was arrested recently after he and Terwik Ludwig allegedly broke into a store's generator room and stole copper wires worth over $1,600 in Kagman last Oct. 26.

Blas, a 56-year-old notorious habitual offender, was arrested last Nov. 24 for allegedly burglarizing an apartment complex in San Vicente and stealing a couple's jewelry, money, and other items worth $22,875 on Aug. 21 and Nov. 9. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Magazine checks out resort life on Saipan

Dress magazine, a lifestyle magazine targeting Japanese women in their 30s and 40s, has sent two of its readers to Saipan to report on the full resort experience of nature, golf, yoga, gourmet dining, and an upscale hotel stay.

From Nov. 25 to 28, the readers indulged in the luxuries of the island for a five-page story to be featured in the magazine's Dec. 27, 2014, issue. *Dress* magazine circulates to 100,000 readers, targeting women who are interested in lifestyle trends.

"The MVA was pleased to support the *Dress* magazine FAM tour with ground transportation and arrangements for permits and photography," said Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "The Northern Mariana Islands are an excellent destination for relaxation and rejuvenation, and we anticipate the *Dress* magazine article will share the experience with their readers in full and luxurious color."

While on Saipan, Kazuko Kawabe and Sachiko Kurihara indulged in a full afternoon on the white sands of Managaha, a half round of golf at Laolao Bay Golf Resort, an adventure tour of Forbidden Island, and the island-themed I Sagua Spa and luxury rooms of their accommodating hotel, Hyatt Regency Saipan. A wide variety of cuisine was enjoyed at the Oleai Beach Bar & Grill, with the sweeping vistas of The Grill at Laolao Bay Golf Resort, at the Wild West-themed Country House Restaurant, the refined Coffee Room N-106 Café, beneath the stars aboard the Stars & Stripes catamaran, in the bright and open-aired Kili Terrace, at quick and sweet-tasting Winchell's, and at the island-themed Herman's Bakery. The pair also took in shopping options at Joeten Shopping Center. ***(MVA)***

Oleai Elementary students shine in Oct., Nov. speech competitions

Oleai Elementary School would like to congratulate the following students for winning during the October and November speech competitions:

October Primary Grade Forensic Conference winners

Kinder, 2nd Grade Division:
- Aurvy Jacolbe, 1st Place, Readers Forum
- Latisha Anne De Jesus, 2nd Place, Readers Forum
- Thomas Joaquin Chong, 3rd Place, Readers Forum
- Genelyn Joy Lansangan , 3rd Place, Readers Forum

3rd, 5th Grade Division:
- Lars Wolf, 1st Place, Readers Forum
- Lars Wolf, 1st Place, Duo Interpretation
- Tinalyn Litulumar, 1st Place, Readers Forum
- Psa Lle Medina, 1st Place, Readers Forum Masters
- Jonathan Wolf, 1st Place, Humorous Interpretation
- Jonathan Wolf, 1st Place, Duo Interpretation
- Chareena Layugan, 2nd Place, Readers Forum
- William Ano, 3rd Place, Impromptu
- Dylan Jacolbe, 4th Place, Readers Forum Masters
- Eros Estolas, 4th Place, Readers Forum
- Nicole Mallari, 4th Place, Readers Forum
- Oceana Teigita, 5th Place, Readers Forum

November Primary Grade Forensic Conference winners

Kinder, 2nd Grade Division:
- Latisha Anne De Jesus, 4th Place, Readers Forum Masters
- Merry Ann C. Viesca, 4th Place, Readers Forum
- Thomas Joaquin Chong, 5th Place, Readers Forum Masters

3rd, 5th Grade Division:
- Lars Wolf, 1st Place, Readers Forum Masters
- Lars Wolf, 1st Place, Duo Interpretation
- Jonathan Wolf, 1st Place, Humorous Interpretation
- Jonathan Wolf, 1st Place, Duo Interpretation
- Psa Lle Medina, 1st Place, Dramatic Interpretation
- William Año, 2nd Place, Impromptu
- Tinalyn Litulumar, 3rd Place, Readers Forum Masters
- Kina Rangamar, 3rd Place, Readers Forum Masters
- Jzl Santomin, 4th Place, Dramatic Interpretation
- Andrielle Coloma, 4th Place, Humorous Interpretation
- Stephanie Dela Cruz, 5th Place, Readers Forum Masters
- Issa Teigita, 5th Place, Readers Forum
- Psa Lle Medina, 5th Place, Impromptu

November National Junior Speech & Debate Assoc. winners
- Bina Mary Reyes, 1st Place, Carolinian Poetry
- Bina Mary Reyes, 4th Place, Poetry
- Issa Salazar, 1st Place, Chamorro Poetry
- Meryl Capalad, 2nd Place, Poetry
- Victoria Dela Cruz, 2nd Place, Chamorro Poetry
- Timothy Acosta, 3rd Place, Poetry
- Lucrecia Romolor, 5th Place, Poetry
- Trixia Litulumar, 5th Place, Poetry

LAND ASSIGNMENT

1 **LAND AND BUILDING ASSIGNMENT:** CONSIST OF 2 LOTS (PICTURE BELOW) WITH 4 COMMERCIAL UNIT, FORMERLY NIKO LAUNDRY AND NIKO MARKET AND 3 RESIDENTIAL UNITS. **LAND AREA:** LAND (A) 1124 SQ.M , LAND (B) 1111 SQ.M. **LOCATED** AT SAN ROQUE BEFORE PALM RESORT AND FORMER LA FIESTA

2 **LAND ASSIGNMENT:** CONSIST OF 2 LOTS **LAND (A):** 737 SQ.M **LAND (B)** 779 SQ.M. **LOCATED** ACROSS 13TH FISHERMAN MONUMENT AND NEXT TO MARIANAS EYE CLINIC

3 **LAND AND HOUSE ASSIGNMENT– LAND AREA:** 5,000 SQ.M. **LOCATED** AT DANDAN NEAR DANDAN GOLF RANGE

4 **LAND AND BUILDING ASSIGNMENT–LAND AREA:** 757 SQ.M. **LOCATED** AT SAN ANTONIO ACROSS PAKPAK BEACH NEAR PIC HOTEL AND PIC STAFF BARRACKS

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL NIKO CONSULTANT INC. OR EMER AT 234-1818 OR 287-0693 EMAIL: ebanayos@yahoo.com

Hart: We look forward to working with Kilili

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Sharon Hart stressed yesterday that she and the college community are looking forward to forging a stronger working relationship with Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan for the benefit of NMC students and for the advancement of higher education in the CNMI.

"We have the greatest respect for Congressman Kilili and look to his assistance not only on local matters, but also on key issues involving higher education on the national level," said Hart.

Hart was responding to an article that was published on Monday, Dec. 1, 2014, in the *Saipan Tribune* where Sablan stated he would like to help the Northern Marianas College.

"His office has been tremendously helpful to the college in the past and we hope we can continue to rely on that assistance so we can maximize benefits and options that are available to CNMI students as they pursue a college degree," added Hart.

Among the items that Hart would like to discuss with Sablan are workforce development initiatives, the continuation of programs and services made possible by the College Access Challenge Grant program, and capital improvement projects.

"There are key priorities for the college that have broad impact in the community but require funding and resources," said Hart. "We are looking forward to collaborate with Congressman Sablan to see how we can best leverage existing and new programs and services."

Hart stated that she has already made calls to Sablan's office to schedule a meeting. ***(NMC)***

Public warned of high surf today

A high surf advisory is currently in effect until 6pm today, Thursday. A small craft advisory for hazardous seas is also in effect until 6pm today.

According to the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, surf on east facing reefs will build and peak between 10 and 12 feet then subside to below advisory heights today. Surf on south facing reefs will peak between 8 and 10 feet then subside to below advisory heights today.

A small craft advisory for hazardous seas means that seas 10 feet or greater will create conditions hazardous to small craft. Combined seas of 9 to 11 feet will produce hazardous conditions for operators of small craft tonight. Seas are expected to subside to between 8 and 9 feet by this afternoon.

The public is being advised to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along east and south facing reefs as rip currents will be life threatening. Mariners should avoid shoaling areas where long period swell can sharpen into large breaking waves. It is not unusual for waves to break much farther from shoaling areas than is normally experienced. Remember, breaking waves can easily capsize even larger vessels. ***(HSEM)***

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
SCHEDULE OF ELECTRIC CHARGES AND RATES

By order of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, CUC is authorized to adjust the LEAC charge depending on the price of oil. Adjustments are made when the "Mean of Platts Singapore" or MOPS monthly pricing equals or exceeds 4.5% of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the LEAC charge. Due to a decline in average fuel prices, CUC is able to reduce the fuel-charge by 6.16%. Accordingly, the LEAC rate has decreased from $0.25168 per kWh to **$0.23616 per kWh**, effective **December 1, 2014**.

BASE RATES

		RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL	GOVERNMENT	MP*
1	Monthly Customer Charge	$ 7.00	$ 10.00	$ 10.00	$ 9.06
2	Base Rates Per kWh:				
	KWH LEVELS				
	1) 1 to 350	$ 0.0210	$ 0.1130	$ 0.1240	$ 0.1070
	2) 351 to 1,200	$ 0.0970	$ 0.1130	$ 0.1240	$ 0.1070
	3) 1,201 and over	$ 0.1580	$ 0.1130	$ 0.1240	$ 0.1070
3	Infrastructure Surcharge Per kWh -- all usage	$ 0.0210	$ 0.0210	$ 0.0210	$ 0.0210
4	Public Law 16-7 Credit (Rebate) Per kWh -- all usage	$ (0.0230)	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Municipal Pumping

LEVELIZED ENERGY ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE (LEAC) RATE

	RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL	GOVERNMENT	MP*
New LEAC Rate (Effective 12/01/14)	$ 0.23616	$ 0.23616	$ 0.23616	$ 0.23616
Previous LEAC Rate	$ 0.25168	$ 0.25168	$ 0.25168	$ 0.25168

*Municipal Pumping

PUBLIC STREETLIGHTING AND PRIVATE AREA LIGHTING TARIFF

Availability: Applicable to public outdoor streetlighting service and private area lighting where CUC owns, maintains and operates such facilities.
Energy Charge: The energy charge is the kWh multiplied by the sum of the applicable electric base rate and LEAC rate.
Fixture Charge: See below.

	FIXTURE TYPE	WATTS	KWH/MONTH	FIXTURE CHARGE PER MONTH
1	Long Arm	250	101	$ 11.67
2	Short Arm	175	71	$ 8.33
3	LED	140	57	$ 10.83

ELECTRIC NON-RATE FEES

1	Late Charge (monthly)	1% of Past Due
2	NSF Check / Returned Check Charge	$ 40.00
3	Convenience Fee (for pay-by-phone and online payments)*	$ 1.50
4	Unauthorized Connection*	$ 550.00
5	Reconnection at the Pole*	$ 200.00
6	Investigation (no charge for first two investigations)*	$ 210.00
7	Disconnection Notice	$ 15.00
8	Meter Change Out	$ 95.00
9	New Service - Single Phase	$ 135.00
10	Inspection of Service (no charge for first two inspections)	$ 90.00
11	Meter Test - Single Phase	$ 75.00
12	Meter Test - Three Phase	$ 110.00
13	Disconnection at the Meter	$ 45.00
14	Reconnection at the Meter	$ 60.00

Non-Rate Fees Effective 04/17/14
*Non-Rate Fees Effective 08/03/14

Updated December 2014

MVA joins China International Travel Mart

The Marianas Visitors Authority joined Brand USA last month to participate in the China International Travel Mart, the largest professional travel mart in Asia.

Hundreds of thousands of industry and media reps and consumers attended the event held on Nov. 19-21, 2014, in Shanghai. The MVA distributed information and brochures at their booth, which was highlighted by indigenous Carolinian cultural dancers and craft demonstrations.

"Our cultural performances were a big attraction at CITM, and of course, our status as a visa-free destination also makes the Northern Marianas very attractive to Chinese visitors," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman.

The MVA also conducted over 20 media interviews, including a live broadcast to 300-million viewers of CCTV's China Discovery Channel. Other interviews were conducted with Global Times, China Travel Agent, sohu.com, CITM Daily, Hangzhou TV, Net Ease, Travel & Leisure, Marriage Group, Legal Evening News, TTG China, Travelling Scope, lotour.com, Travel + Leisure, Islands Traveler, FM 106.1 Beijing, sh.sina.com.cn, Travel Weekly China, and CCTV Explore. A captioned photo of the NMI cultural dancers was also prominently featured in the *Shanghai Daily* newspaper.

The MVA operates representative offices in Shanghai, Beijing, and Guangzhou. ***(MVA)***

MVA

The Marianas Visitors Authority delegation promotes the Northern Mariana Islands at the China International Travel Mart on Nov. 19-21, 2014, in Shanghai under the Brand USA pavilion.

MVA

The cultural demonstrators of the Northern Mariana Is. drew a crowd at the China International Travel Mart on Nov. 19-21, 2014, in Shanghai.

MVA

American Consul Barry Zhang, right, stops by the Marianas Visitors Authority information booth at the China International Travel Mart on Nov. 19-21, 2014. Pictured from left are MVA marketing director for China Jacky Zhu, MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman, and Zhang.

MVA

Over 20 media outlets conducted interviews with the Marianas Visitors Authority at the China International Travel Mart on Nov. 19-21, 2014, in Shanghai.

MVA

The Marianas Visitors Authority participates in the China International Travel Mart on Nov. 19-21, 2014, in Shanghai. From left are Sunday Wang, public relations & co-op manager, MVA Beijing Office; Jacky Zhu, China marketing director; Jiamei Wang from Global Times newspaper; MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman; and Marina Deng, PR & marketing manager, MVA Guangzhou office.

MVA

Travel & Leisure editor Amily Shen was among of 20 media reps who conducted interviews with the Marianas Visitors Authority at the China International Travel Mart on Nov. 19-21, 2014, in Shanghai.

Century Insurance Company (Guam), Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Accountant (2)
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Finance and Accounting with at least 5 years work-related experience in insurance financial management and payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivable, payable, and payroll management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system, GENIISYS and MS Word and Excel software. Payroll accountant must possess experience in electronic processing of timesheets, allotments, and standard and government deductions. Must be able to work under time pressure and flexible hours.

Accounting Supervisor
A Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and/or Finance from an accredited college or university with minimum of 3 years work experience in supervisory level, supervising at least 2 associates. CPA board passer and with experience in Property & Casualty Insurance accounting operations is an advantage. Knowledgeable in SAP R3 FICO System and SAP Fixed Asset Module. Background in General Insurance Information System (GENIISYS) is a plus. Proficient in analyzing financial statements and must have knowledge in external regulatory reporting requirements. Microsoft Office proficiency with advanced knowledge in Excel is a must.

Branch Manager
Bachelor's Degree plus 10 years experience in the insurance business, at least 5 years of that as a general or operations manager in an insurance company. Must possess experience in managing technical underwriting including actual undertaking of risk analysis through risk survey and/or inspections of huge risks. Must have experience in managing reinsurance transactions with reinsurance brokers and reinsurers which involves undertaking of PML, Catastrophe Modeling, Setting Company Risk Retention. Must also be experienced in managing insurance claims handling including setting up of loss reserves in overseeing Claims Manager functions.

System Analyst
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science/Technology or Management Information Systems with a minimum 4 years experience in computer systems and programming. Must possess a broad knowledge and experience in computer systems, strong problem-solving and analytical skills, and the ability to think logically. Must have knowledge in Oracle server and programming, and a strong experience in insurance database and program – GENIISYS and an in-depth experience in insurance business operations. Must have good interpersonal and communication skills.

Underwriting and Claims Supervisor
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree plus 5 years of work experience in insurance business particularly in claims, underwriting, and reinsurance. Must also have knowledge, skills and ability to analyze and manipulate enterprise risk management. Must possess above average communication skills, a working knowledge of MS Word and Excel and the insurance software GENIISYS. Must be willing to take cross-functional assignments and adapt to changes necessary for the effective functioning of the organization's business operations.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Century Insurance Company (Saipan), Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Monday, December 15, 2014.

Century Insurance Company (Guam), Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

BEST SUNSHINE INTERNATIONAL

Best Sunshine is committed to develop Saipan's first Integrated Resort, which includes hotels, retail shops, restaurants, spa & wellness, health & aesthetics tourism, conference, casino and themed entertainment. We invite interested professionals to apply for the following position.

Communications Officer

- Implementing communications strategy defined by SVP Corporate Communications;
- Liaising with internal departments and answering inquiries from media, individuals and other organizations, often via telephone and email;
- Researching, writing, and distributing press releases to media;
- Collating and analyzing media coverage;
- Producing daily news analysis on current affairs on the CNMI;
- preparing and coordinating the production of marketing materials, inclusive but not limited to company brochures, leaflets, website, press kits;
- devising and coordinating photo opportunities;
- organizing events including press events, community projects, inclusive of production of event, coordinating participants and invitees;
- maintaining and updating information on the organization's website;
- managing and updating information and engaging with users on social media sites such as Twitter and Facebook;
- fostering community relations through events such as open days and through involvement in community initiatives;
- other related duties.

Minimum Job Requirements

- College graduate with a degree in marketing, communications, or related field with good command of language proficiency
- 3-4 years working experience in related discipline: publishing, PR and communications
- Ability to write good quality press material
- Good project management and coordination skills
- Sociable and good people's skill
- Fast learner
- Adaptability to multi-cultural environment
- Flexible working hours

Salary is commensurate with experience and education. Please email your complete detailed resume to hr@bestsunshineint.com. Background check may be required before employment.

Thank you, Si Yu'os Ma'ase, and Olomwaay for your interest in Best Sunshine!

Families remember Guam teens killed in hit-and-run

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—The three Guam teens who died in a Thanksgiving weekend hit-and-run were inseparable and enjoyed watching movies and dancing, family members said.

Cherrica Gallen, 19, Saly Santos, 16 and Julia George, 16, were killed early Saturday.

The trio went on a beach outing Friday night before being dropped off at a subdivision known as Zero Down just before midnight.

Tire marks indicated a vehicle veered off the lane leading into the subdivision, Guam Police Officer A.J. Balajadia said. The vehicle likely was a Nissan, he said. No arrests have been made.

Gallen's father, Bryan Gallen, told *Pacific Daily News* the families are thinking of holding joint rosary prayers in honor of the teens' friendship. "They did everything together," he said.

Cherrica Gallen was born in Guam to Pohnpeian immigrants. She recently graduated from high school and was making plans for college.

"I couldn't even believe that somebody could have done that and ended her life like that," her father said. "She was called too early."

George's mother, Lila George, described her as a neat freak who loved to clean. She was 3 years old when the family moved to Guam from Kosrae, said her father, Gibson George.

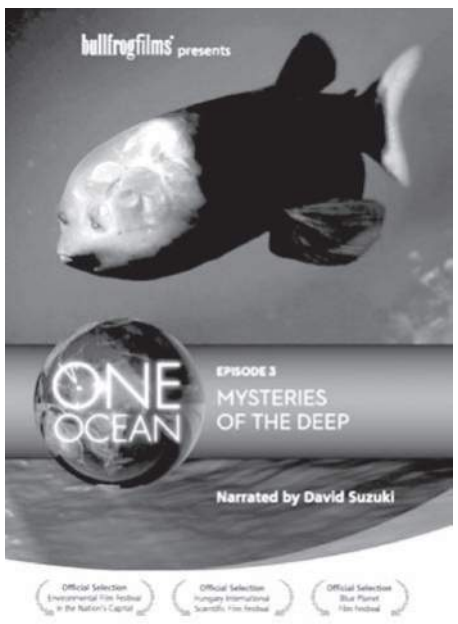
Santos was in middle school when she and her mother moved to Guam from Pohnpei after her father died, said Junia Hall, a cousin.

The three "loved hanging out, loved going to movies and loved dancing," she said. Santos learned to dance hula as a child, said Anna Santos, her mother.

Two of the teens were pronounced dead after they were taken to Guam Memorial Hospital. The other died later Saturday.

FIRST FRIDAY FILMS

Hear all about the Marianas Trench



First Friday Films is featuring the Marianas Trench in its program this Friday, Dec. 5, at 6:30pm at the American Memorial Park.

The public is invited to join us for two free films this Friday. First, travel with us on the *First Voyage to the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument* with a local film produced by APASEEM in 2012 about the expedition to the newly created monument. Then we will show episode 3 from CBC's One Ocean series titled *Mysteries of the Deep*.

Mysteries of the Deep joins a team of scientists ranging from biologists to volcanologists on an international expedition to the Mariana Arc. Every day they make new discoveries about the outlandish deep-sea dwellers and dramatic underwater volcanoes. But even as scientists catalog these new findings, industrial fisheries are also delving further into deep waters in an attempt to replace diminishing fish stocks along the coasts. Can technology help us understand this little-known world before it's altered further?

Before the film, representatives from the CNMI's Marine Monitoring Team will share photos, stories and research from their 2014 expeditions to the Northern Islands, including parts of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument.

First Friday Films is a partnership between American Memorial Park, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality and the Humanities Council with support from other organizations and individuals. These particular films are sponsored by APASEEM and BECQ. As always, our film events are free and open to the public. This event will run approximately 90 minutes.

For more information about First Friday Films, email fffsaipan@gmail.com or check out www.firstfridayfilmssaipan.blogspot.com. ***(BECQ)***

Search continues for missing person off Guam beach

TARAGUE BEACH, Guam—Responders from multiple agencies continued their search for Airman Alec M. Dye on the northern portion of Guam.

Searching continued overnight and was conducted by a Naval helicopters attached to HSC-25 and HSC-85 and a 110-foot patrol boat from Coast Guard Sector Guam. Shortly after 8 o'clock yesterday morning, members of Andersen Air Force Base Fire, Andersen Air Force Base Security, and volunteers resumed shoreline searches of Tarague beach. A Coast Guard small boat from Station Apra Harbor joined the patrol boat *Washington* and HSC-25 helicopter with searching the waters outside of the reef.

The Station Apra Harbor small boat searched the coastline from Two Lover's Point north to Ritidian Point. The small boat then joined the patrol boat and helicopters to cover the waters from the shorelines between Ritidian and Pati Points out to 5 nautical miles.

Dye is considered missing while the search for him continues.

The 23-year-old is assigned to the 2nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Barksdale Air Force Base, La.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with Airman Dye and his family and friend," Col. Tyrell Chamberline, 36th Wing Vice commander said in a news release. "Emergency responders from across the island are continuing to work around the clock to return him to his family and wingmen." ***(USCG, with PNC)***

Jetstar Australia-Tokyo flight diverts to Guam

SYDNEY (AP)—A Jetstar flight from the Australian tourist city of Cairns to Tokyo was diverted to the island of Guam after a cockpit instrument indicated a problem with oil levels, the airline said Wednesday.

Flight JQ25 was diverted on Tuesday afternoon as a precaution and landed on the South Pacific U.S. island territory without incident, the Australian budget subsidiary of Qantas said in a statement.

After a "minor fix," the Boeing 787 continued to Tokyo's Narita International Airport and arrived at 10:50 p.m. local time (13:50 GMT)—about 3 hours late, it said.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

BEST SUNSHINE INTERNATIONAL

Best Sunshine is committed to develop Saipan's first Integrated Resort, which includes hotels, retail shops, restaurants, spa & wellness, health & aesthetics tourism, conference, casino and themed entertainment. We invite interested professionals to apply for the following positions.

Senior Vice President of Corporate Communications

1. Primary responsibility is to promote the company's resort development in Saipan and the company's future businesses in the respective industry;
2. In charge of corporate communications, public relations, reputation management, event management of the Group and executive profiling for the executive management team;
3. Support human resources department to define Group value to assist in future hiring;
4. Responsible for government and community communications programs to establish the Group as the employer of choice in countries where the company operates;
5. Responsible for providing strategic advice on marketing and program planning of the Group;
6. Responsible for strategizing and negotiating with major travel partners, including airlines and travel agencies;
7. Responsible for forming partnerships with television networks, talent management companies and entertainment companies to promote the properties of the Group;
8. Responsible for organizing and monitoring the execution of annual promotion and marketing budget plan;
9. Responsible for collaborating with the executive management team and defining future development strategy;
10. Responsible for working with various management teams and the Board of Directors of the Company to meet development objectives and visions of the Group; and participating in senior management meeting and Board meetings.

Minimum Job Requirements

1. 15 years of experience in corporate communications, reputation management, public relations, marketing, branding and advertising, event operation and property marketing.
2. Master's degree in marketing or communications.
3. Experience in advising corporate executives on workforce strategy and implementation.

Vice President of Talent Management and Development

1. Primary responsibility is to oversee, develop and implement a workforce strategy and plan to support the development of the organization and its objective of operating gaming facilities, integrated resorts and high end hotels in Saipan, CNMI.
2. Responsible for advising corporate executives on the company's business objectives in relation to workforce strategy and development.
3. Responsible for the selection, recruitment, training and development of company employees.
4. Responsible for employee benefits, compensation and management of human resources operations.
5. Responsible for employee performance management and performance review.
6. Responsible for developing and implementing management strategies and programs which are tailored to the company's objectives in the gaming industry and hospitality industry.
7. Responsible for designing and developing the company's organizational culture.
8. Prepare workforce management budgets and monitor expenditures.

Minimum Job Requirements

1. 15 years of experience in accommodation management, financial management and workforce management.
2. 15 years of experience in the hospitality industry including hotels, spas, private clubs, golf clubs, service apartments and restaurants.
3. 15 years of experience in the Hospitality industry holding a top management position.
4. 15 years of experience in advising corporate executives on workforce strategy and implementation.

Salary is commensurate with experience and education. Good salary package and benefits. Please email your complete detailed resume to hr@bestsunshineint.com. Background check may be required before employment.

Thank you, Si Yu'os Ma'ase and Olomwaay for your interest in Best Sunshine!

Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Board of Directors
Northern Marianas Humanities Council

The Council is a non-profit private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council's mission is to "foster awareness, understanding and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth."

The Council's board is comprised of thirteen volunteer members who serve three year terms. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross section of our CNMI community. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities and to actively participate in fundraising activities. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four times annually;
- Raising funds for Council programs;
- Recruiting community partners;
- Promoting awareness about the Council's mission and its programs in the community;
- Attending Council programs and activities;
- Participating in working committee meetings;
- Evaluating Council programs and activities;
- Reviewing grant applications;
- Providing input about the humanities from various community members, and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings on behalf of the Council.

Applicants are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to Robert H. Hunter, Chair, Northern Marianas Humanities Council at Post Office Box 506437 Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Council's office located in the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai, Saipan. All letters of interest and resumes must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 2, 2015. For additional information, please contact the Council's Executive Director, Scott Russell, at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at www.northernmarianashumanities.org.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

The Apple-1: Soul of a new era

On Dec. 11, an Apple-1 computer that co-founder Steve Jobs sold out of his parents' Los Altos, Calif., garage in 1976 hits the auction block. Christie's auction officials expect the bidding to reach more than $500,000. The computer's original price tag: $600.

We imagine this news will send millions of Americans scurrying into the garage or spelunking in the basement for computerized treasures from the time when the primitive portable computers and monster-sized cellphones roamed the Earth.

This is the same treasure-hunt impulse that drives comic book collectors on the never-ending quest for, say, the first edition of the Superman comic, or a perfectly preserved 1967 Chevrolet Corvette hidden under a tarp in a barn in Indiana.

The only difference: You can still leaf through that Superman comic, though its pages would be brittle and you could endanger a million-dollar investment. You can still hop in the bucket seat of a vintage Corvette and floor it. For that matter, a vintage typewriter can still turn out a Pulitzer Prize-winning manuscript.

The Apple-1 may be "fully operational," as the auctioneers promise, but we'd guess that loading iOS 8 would take until ... never.

Still, the appeal here is this machine's provenance: Documents show it was sold by Jobs himself, then 21, from his parents' garage. You can imagine the Apple guru pitching the machine to his neighbor, businessman Charles Ricketts, as "insanely great," one of his favorite phrases. Ricketts even kept his original canceled check. Nice touch there.

That this Apple-1 survived for decades—one of only a few hundred produced—is astonishing. Like most Americans, we harbor little nostalgia for electronic devices that we've tossed away when the next shiny device distracts us. Who lusts after, say, one of those hulking videocassette recorders which begat DVRs which begat streaming video?

But, after spending a lifetime in front of a keyboard and a blinking screen—often blissfully—we can understand why the Henry Ford organization recently paid $905,000 at auction for another Apple-1. The Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Mich., is a perfect place to stash an electronic fossil behind glass so visitors can goggle at the astonishing pace of change. The computer will be on display near the Your Place in Time exhibits, which holds such technological artifacts as a Weltron eight-track player from 1970, a Pong video game by Atari from 1975, a Sony Discman from 1985 and a Nintendo Game Boy and game cartridges from 1989.

Sorry, antique hunters, but none of those is likely to bring $500,000 at auction.

The Apple-1 will, because it helped create "the Big Bang moment" of personal computing, Andrew McVinish, Christie's director of decorative arts, tells us. It reminds us of something rare and precious: A moment when a couple of guys in a garage launched a new era with a bold idea and boundless enthusiasm.

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Cyber Monday Kim

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

We had our Singles Day in China 11.11.14, once the source of parents' anxiety over the connubial mate of their sole child, normally child-bearing for the girl at 18 and arriving at spinsters-dom if still single after 27 years. Diminutive Jack Ma of the super Alibaba Internet punch turned the day into a big shopping day when he decided that connectivity was the future of China and the world. For that, he is racking moolah of Himalayan piles in Wall Street.

A big shopping day in America began on Thanksgiving Day sale, through Black Friday, Turkey weekend, and then Cyber Monday. This crowning month of commercial promos complete with baby in the manger around winter solstice, the shepherds watching in the fields by night, will see consumers march on malls and hack cyber halls to the little drummer's boy tune, *pa ram pum pum pum,* until the Three Wise Men show up from the East. The shop-'til-you-drop habit is alive and well in America (save on Cyber Monday, when you do so in the comfort of your keyboard). It may not be a productive day for the offices but it is a busy day!

Meanwhile, the "rule of law" might be enshrined in the United Nation's Human Rights Declaration followed by democratic governments who have constitutional processes in place, but the six-week shopping season from T-Day to 3-Wisemen-Day is no longer just a function of the law of supply and demand, of satisfying an obvious need, as it is a crass manipulation of the Chamber of Commerce network around the world. The corporate effort is supreme.

When Corporations Rule the World was on the *New York Times* bestseller list, but its truth did not hit us until we read that TransCanada of Calgary, known for the tar sands of Alberta, has been awarded an environmentalist citation for having accurate accessible data on its operations' carbon emissions. Duh. That's just like saying that there are redemptive virtues in being a Nazi! There are?

Anyway, we got Cyber Monday rigged by corporations for shopping, so now, the Kim? Well, this is not another article on Kim Yong-un of *Chiao Tian* (NoKor). Only a few hours from Shenyang to Dandong on the eastern side of the Yalu River, *Hanggul* (SoKor) won't let us miss its snickers each time our rotund neighbor coughs and sneezes while walking with a limp on a cane, and brushes his distinctive haircut as balloons on the southern side of Panmunjom drops propaganda materials claiming his wife's sexual indiscretion before marriage; also, rains thousands of U.S. dollar singles. I do not know what the U.S. bills are for other than confirm who really rules the peninsula!

The Kim in our title is our recent acquaintance among the Kardashians.

Leave it to Greek Orthodox Arianna Stasinopoúlou Huffington of Sephardic lineage to titillate our fancy. Huff Post, her cyber magazine, covers the gamut of the sublime and the ridiculous. Kim K's photo shoot with *papermag.com* came as news in a coverage (or absence thereof) where the mama of Kanye West's North West bared it all without any signs of blemish from child delivery. Claimed to have been Photoshopped, Kim K grabbed our testosterone by the balls nonetheless!

The comedian Tina Fey in her *NYTimes* 2011 bestseller *Bossy Pants* said of Kim K in a characterization that is making cyberspace rounds to conform to the *papermag.com* photo shoot: "Now every girl is expected to have Caucasian blue eyes, full Spanish lips, a classic button nose, hairless Asian skin with a California tan, a Jamaican dance hall ass, long Swedish legs, small Japanese feet, the abs of a lesbian gym owner, the hips of a nine-year-old boy, the arms of Michelle Obama, and doll tits. The person closest to actually achieving this look is Kim Kardashian, who, as we know, was made by Russian scientists to sabotage our athletes." Funny. It is physiologically on target!

Add J. Lo's unapologetic spread and protrusion of her butt and Beyoncé's prominent elephant legs, and we shift the female form from the anemic looking damsels of the catwalk to confident full-bodied presence hurled into our face, like it or not.

Prominent in the photo shoot, in addition to Kim K's frontal view, is her gleaming oiled butt. Now, "butt" was not a respectable word when I was a budding anglophile, finessing my English in the U.S. South where I went to school along displays of the swinging ass not in short supply, confirmed later in the Blue Mountains of Kingston's Caribbean dance halls. KK offering her butt shot to *#BreaktheInternet* didn't, but it was sporting. It also put "butt" on the level of acceptability and common use.

Kim K claimed her frontal view gave her self-confidence. Well, now, the next time I am parked in front of the JP Center on Beach Road by Gualo Rai, and some of the fairer sex wish to know how to boost their self-confidence, I shan't hesitate to tutor the full range of the Kim K method. It is only the fair thing to pedagogically do. Click. Click. Click.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Malag lau ma`aggem

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Mañusu flores biktoria gi katkuet katsada guine. A`gañg na selebrasion para i man-gana, ma`aggem para i man-dimalas.

`Nai katmam ñaihon i estrakadan politika hu huñgog gi chagu` mapagahes dos eku. I unu sumen triste lau na`magof; i otru sumen na`mamahlau. Todu i tres umasusede gi halom sais mesis na tiempu.

Hu birayu` tatte gi silensiu na patte gi hinasoghu sige hu konsidedera i lini`ehu. Kulan finapos ha`ane: kahulu` i atdau gi sanhaya dispues machom gi sanlagu. Todu pares (doble) maseha hafa na sinisede deste chaleg gi tutuhon esta`i tuhu` lagu` gi uttimu. Establisau na finapos tautau.

Kustumbren Balutan (BTG)

`Nai makombida hau ni familia para i gipot niha kustumbren tanu` i para ta daña`e siha gi fina` namagof na sena. Na`magof na dinaña sa` estague` otru pisun natibu sumimientu inafamauleg familia yan tautau-ta siha.

Lau nuebu na bisiu tafa` akustumbre ni ineyagta ginen Tagalu: Guiya este i "Balutan To Go" (BTG) `nai ta balutan neñkanu` gi tin foil para ta chule`. Ti mattu gi hinassomu na ti makombida hau para un` fan lofan neñkanu` fuera ke para un` gachuñge i familia gi fina` sena? Haf` na para ta fa` catering service i gipot familia?

Mauleg ta repara haf` sustansian kombite gi inagañg familia para i gipot niha. Fatachuñge ya infan hamyu gi lamasan sena `nai siña marinueba inatuñgu unu yan otru! Na para i chatpagu na kustumbren BTG!

Konsensian Hoben

Ha sodayu` un` hobensitu un` pupueñge `nai para bai huchum i trañkan i kelat i gima`. Kulan gai chathinassu pot futtunan man-hoben yan inosiente gi pa`gu masusesede na disposision.

Hu apagat i prohimu na esta ha impatta klaru konsensiaña gi haf` dinanche na disposision ya maseha ti faborapble, i tiempu u nina` libre gi kareraña.

Namagof i gai konsensia maseha hoben. Hu li`e na ma`lag i hafapoposgue na chalan pot offisioña. Hu tamtam lokue` na siempre u sañgan klaru haf` sentimentoña gi hilu` pinansensia yan hinimidde.

Mañan libianu

Naturat gi tautau i para u suhaye che`chu` mapot yan makat gi haf` ha petsisige. Lau gaige gi tatten felis na hinanau ma`lag na kandet sapet. Macho`chu` 18 oras gi ha`ane yan anaku` na tiempu para una` felis haf` ha petsisige.

Dispues de ha gu`ot benefisiun finachucho`ña dumeskansan ñaihon pot para u kontinua dispues mas animu gi otru pinetsige. Tai finagpu` che`chu` fitme na guinife yan planu.

I sensian animosu gi maseha haye na petsona siempre un` dia u komple guinifiña. Mauleg na tiempu ha gasta umatetuye haf` debi u ketuñgu` ya sige ha adelanta mas chechegueña. Haye u hineñgge ideun un` tautau ni fumatinas un` poñgpuñg kandi ya ha bende un` sientimu kada unu gi manadan tenda? Hagas biyinariu si pindehu. Guahu guine inipus miserapble, tinane`yu` mama` sabiun karisu.

I puntu pot abilidat tautau mumatit-gue` (didog na sakrifisiu) pot satton na guinifiña muna` felis haf` ha petsisige kau bisnes pat haf` otru offisiu. I man-tatkilu` siha na offisiu tat kumu mediku yan jues kotte anaku` na tiempu magasta gi bandan edukasion. Ni unu mamokat halom gi hospitat yan kotte sin fotmat na edukasion gi offisiun niha.

Este lokue` i animu dañkulu bintahaña. Mamatinas bukayu i amiguhu Magoo ya ha bende gi `nos kuantos tenda. `Nai fahna ha doblague` mamatinas mas. Gi uttimon semana mamahan sitbesa ya ilegña, "Gimen sa` mauleg kepbleña i bukayu". Gai salape mas ke $85 mientras hu hohoflag puntan kalulot-hu. Dios mihu!

Mala`et lau mames

I tautau ni ñalañg kontodu mala`et ha taña acha-mames yan miet (honey). Otdinariamente, ta faisen maisa hit deste ñgai`an i mala`et na mames? Gai moralidat i mala`et ya mames gi mismu tiempu gi finapos todu.

Ni kuantu na inadahe gi haf` ta petsisige, ni ñgai`an `nai fatta matompu` gi karera mona. Estague` na puntu sumoyu` hit para ta ta`lun numa`e animu kumomple i esta ta señala para ta chogue. Makat `an matompu` hit lau hatsan maisa hau ya un` kontinua haf` un` chochogue.

Gi uttimon ha`ane `nai kayada ya kabales un` komple che`cho`mu `nai un` taña i mames gi mala`et. Gai inaguaguat i asuntu lau ti nina` seha hau. Felis dispues i un` petsisige. Mala`et lau mames!

Man-ñahlalañg

Managu` si San Pedro para umana` suha tablon iya Marians gi entradan i lañget. `Finagcha`e matai lokue` si Pedro Malas. Chumechefla i paire guatu `nai ma-otden para u falag i akague na potta, era i entradan sasalaguan. Masañgane na taya` esta Chamorro para u halom gi lañget.

Ha atotga fumaisen si Lusifet haf` rasaña. Ineppe, "Chamorro!" Ilegña nu guiya, "Hmmm! Ha lachai si pindehu siempre yumogua i Chamorro pot para bai`n gachuñge-gue` si dimoñu." Deste ayu, haye ha` sumañgan na ginen Marianas-gue`, ensegidas magalute espadan guafe. Dios mihu!

■■■

Kasse mauleg in` tilaika pasapotten miyu ya in` tutuhon manfinu` Bangladesh. Dañkulu si San Pedro yine`aseña nu este na tautague. Hahasso ha` na gigon ilegmu na Chamorro hau, mana` suberu` hau papa` gi lugat Lusifet.

■■■

`Nai mana`e si Magoo katdun to`lañg guaka, ti matman hasañgan "para a`fatinas tautau este". Era kontra che`chu` kasamientu ya ha garentitiha na u fanogcha` fruta tiyan i nobia. Ai na grasia i amiguhu.

■■■

Ha petfiha fumahan ga` bisinu toru para una` fan aladu. Sinañgane "No good rookin'". Era bachet i toru pot esta gai inamku`. Ahe` sa` para u fahan. Masera i kontrata. Gi primet dia `nai hana` fan aladu i toru tat estakan kolat ti ha yamat yan batsala.

Sinañgane ta`lu ni hagas dueñu na "no good rookin'". Humanau

A framework for resolving Japan-China dispute over islands

By AKIKAZU HASHIMOTO, MICHAEL O'HANLON and WU XINBO
LOS ANGELES TIMES

How to make sense of the dispute between Japan and China over some half a dozen uninhabited islets in the East China Sea known as the Diaoyu to the Chinese and the Senkaku to the Japanese?

With a combined area of just a couple of square kilometers, and no permanent human use of any of the islands in recent decades, it is hard to see how the islands could nearly bring the two Asian nations to blows. But from a broad perspective, these rocks are laden with tremendous symbolic and historical significance.

For China, the status of the Diaoyu islands today constitutes a legacy of a period of Japanese aggression beginning in the late 19th century and continuing until 1945 for which Japan sometimes still fails to show proper repentance. In Beijing's eyes, standing up for what it views as its proper rights upholds the post-World War II international order, which dictates that Japan give up the territories that it took from China in the war of 1894-95.

For Japan, China's new interest in what had appeared to be a settled matter over the islands suggests a newly assertive China is bent on using its increased power for nationalistic purposes _ not only over these particular islands, but also in other maritime domains of the western Pacific region. As such, beyond the immediate importance of these islands, the dispute could be a harbinger of unpleasant things to come.

Nationalistic politics in both countries further compound the difficulty of finding a solution to the quarrel over islands that both sides claim in their entirety.

We are independent scholars from each of the key countries involved in this dispute. This includes the United States, which professes no opinion on who rightfully owns the islands, but made many of the territorial decisions after World War II that produced the current situation, and which continues to support Japanese claims to be the rightful administrator of the islands today. The following is offered as a framework to spur our governments to try new approaches.

Two main ideas are at the heart of our proposal, which is designed to respect the core interests and nonnegotiable demands of both claimants to the islands. One pillar is the notion of shared sovereignty, with both Japan and China retaining their claims to all the islands. The second calls for ownership of the islands to be decoupled from ongoing disputes over who has access to parts of the surrounding seas and seabeds.

This logic leads to two options that policymakers in Beijing, Tokyo and Washington should consider:

An interim freeze: The simplest approach would be for each side to not object to the other's claim of sovereignty, and for both sides to forgo any active use, administration or oversight of the islands. In effect, the dispute would be frozen. This would allow time for the Japan-China relationship to return to a calmer state, or perhaps for new ideas to emerge on how sovereignty can be shared more permanently. By decoupling the ownership issue from economic rights around the islands, the situation could be further eased.

A more binding solution: This approach would employ similar logic but seek a more lasting resolution. It would include six points:

■ Each side agrees to not challenge the right of the other to maintain its respective claims to full sovereignty over all the islands.

■ China agrees to accept that Japan will continue legally to have administrative rights over the islands. This would be a concession by Beijing.

■ Japan accepts that the use of the islands would be delegated to a joint oversight board, with equal numbers of Japanese and Chinese members and rotating chairmanship, making any decisions on use of the islands (such as visits by scientists or tourists) by consensus. Thus, in practical terms, it would share all administrative duties and rights equally with China. This would be a concession by Tokyo.

■ Unilateral patrols around the islands by any ships or planes from either side would end. All patrolling within the 12-mile zone bordering the islands would be done jointly. The islands would be used solely for nonmilitary purposes such as ecological tourism, with all such activities fully regulated by the oversight board.

■ The two sides agree that their ongoing disagreements over their respective rights to sea and seabed resources in the broader western Pacific region will not be influenced or decided by any claims to the islands. In other words, the islands would be decoupled from other matters of territory and sovereignty, and the Law of the Sea will in effect not apply.

■ Both sides agree that they will not open up any new territorial disputes with the other over any land formations anywhere in the western Pacific (right now, the Diaoyu/Senkaku are the only disputed territories involving China and Japan, and it is important that no new disputes surface down the road).

Only a package deal such as the above can work, because it asks for flexibility from each key party simultaneously, yet it also clearly upholds what have been the fundamental demands of both. With the governments of Shinzo Abe and Xi Jinping now fully established in Japan and China, respectively, the moment for diplomacy may be upon us.

At a minimum, the two sides should seek a freeze, as in our first option. Alternatively, or subsequently, they could find a permanent resolution. If nothing else, we need to begin an academic debate about how to solve this dispute rather than simply hoping that it does not turn into a serious crisis again.

Akikazu Hashimoto is a professor at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies in Tokyo. Michael O'Hanlon is director of research for the Foreign Policy program at the Brookings Institution. Wu Xinbo is the director of the Center for American Studies at Fudan University in Shanghai. They wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Please observe three-foot law

I was on my way to work today on my bike, in the bike lane, and a white truck came within about a foot of hitting me. It was terrifying! I have already been hit by a car once before while walking my bike through a crosswalk with flashing lights, and I am really cautious when I am out on the road.

I would like to just ask drivers to please observe the law which says to give cyclists a three-foot clearance. Cyclists are completely defenseless against a 3-ton (or more) vehicle, and it would be a tragedy if one were hit. I worry about my friends on the road practicing for the upcoming Hell of the Marianas bike race this weekend and also for all the visiting cyclists from off island.

Please be careful of cyclists and pedestrians and respect the three-foot law. Have a happy and safe holidays.

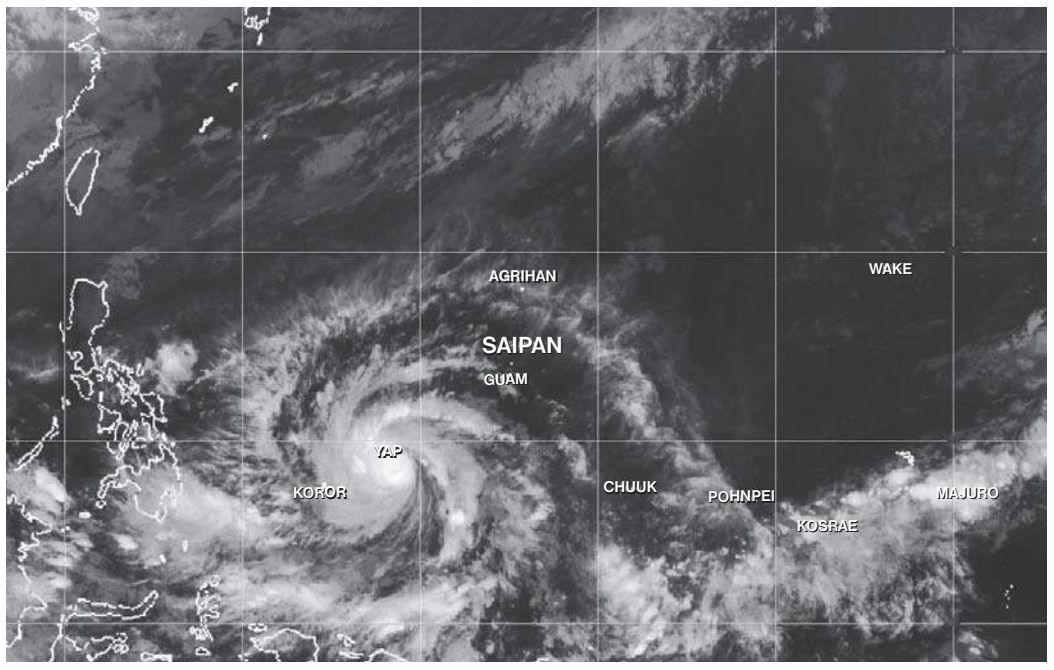
Susan Marchitti
Chinatown, Saipan

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Hagupit (22W) is centered 160 miles southeast of Yap and 520 miles southwest of Guam at 8N140E moving west-northwest at 21 mph with maximum sustained winds of 105 mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are present mainly southeast of Yap up to 180 miles from the center. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found elsewhere across portions of the Republic of Palau and Yap states between the equator and 12N from 130E to 144E and south of the Marianas between 2N and 8N from 145E to 147E. For more information see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and bulletins issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. A surface trough heads northeastward from EQ152E to 10N175E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring within 160 miles of a line from 2N159E to 9N176E. This area includes Kosrae, Kwajalein, and Majuro. Another surface trough curves northeastward from 15N175E through a weak circulation centered southwest of Midway Island at 17N176E to beyond 180 at 19N. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen east of a line from 10N177E to 14N172E to 25N177E.A nearly stationary front stretches southwestward from 25N149E to 17N130E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are located along and northwest of this boundary to beyond 25N.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲83	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼57
Beijing	Sunny	▲34	▼18
Hong Kong	Showers	▲57	▼53
Honolulu	Showers	▲78	▼70
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲48	▼41
Los Angeles	Rain	▲67	▼47
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼75
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼61
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼71
New York	Showers	▲51	▼35
Osaka	Rain	▲49	▼41
Paris	Cloudy	▲37	▼34
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲47	▼29
Rome	Rain	▲62	▼54
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲47	▼38
San Francisco	Rain	▲63	▼56
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲32	▼18
Tokyo	Rain	▲51	▼43
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲60	▼36

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:33 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:51 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
5:20 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:29 AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:29 AM	5:46 PM
Saturday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Sunday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Monday	6:31 AM	5:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:59 PM	4:02 AM
Friday	4:49 PM	4:58 AM
Saturday	5:40 PM	5:54 AM
Sunday	6:32 PM	6:48 AM
Monday	7:24 PM	7:40 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	1:30am	5:30am	4, 7
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	9:50pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:50pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	5:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM
PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daiily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Business

Thanksgiving deals shift S. Korea shopping habits

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea does not celebrate Thanksgiving, but the hot deals at U.S. online retailers during the holiday season are changing the shopping habits of South Koreans who are aggrieved at marked-up prices of locally made and imported goods at hometown stores.

The volume of goods ordered by Korean shoppers from websites overseas has surged in recent years and sales are forecast to set a record high this year above $1 billion. It remains small compared with retail sales within South Korea, which are forecast at $243 billion this year, but is expanding at a faster rate.

The trend known as "jikgoo" in local lingo has forced South Korean retailers to cut prices during the weekend between Black Friday and Cyber Monday to get those shoppers back. LG Electronics Inc. changed its customer service policy in April so that Koreans who buy LG televisions from outside Korea would not be discriminated against in customer service.

Seeing the "jikgoo" trend as a way to lower excessive prices of imported goods, the government is also trying to help these online shoppers. This summer, the Korea Customs Service expanded the list of items that are exempted from the lengthy procedures for registering imported goods.

Those responses show how online commerce is putting traditional bricks and mortar retailing on the back foot in many countries by making it easier for people to compare prices and work out when local chains are gouging them.

Asia has its own online retailers but U.S. companies are also targeting the region, with Amazon.com recently committing $2 billion to expanding its Indian business. In China, e-commerce giant Alibaba Group and Amazon also promoted Black Friday sales but results appeared to be modest. The day was overshadowed by China's, and possibly the world's, busiest retailing day—"Singles Day," on Nov. 11.

South Korean shoppers complain that foreign goods sold at local retailers are marked up and the local market lacks diversity because importers tend to bring in premium goods only, not budget models. Wider choice and cheaper prices are among the reasons why Korean shoppers go to Amazon and eBay to get products made by Korean companies.

South Korean Yoo Jung-kun saved nearly $1,000 when he bought a LG Electronics television from Amazon this summer, even after paying $190 for shipping, $30 for insurance and about $240 for tax and tariff for the $999 model.

The 60-inch LED TV that Yoo got came without advanced options such as 3D or smart TV functions but that didn't matter to him. The 38-year-old auto industry worker didn't want such premium features. But in South Korea, he could only get a 60-inch model with 3D and smart TV features for more than $2,000.

"I can buy items Korean companies exported abroad, with the features that I want, at a cheap price," said Yoo, clad in "jikgoo" items from head to toe. "There is a big price bubble in South Korean market."

AP

In this Nov. 28, 2014 photo, Yoo Jung-kun, an auto industry worker, shows a picture of a wristwatch that he recently purchased on an online retailer overseas during an interview in Seoul, South Korea.

Fiery risk? Air shipments of batteries questioned

WASHINGTON (AP)—Dramatic U.S. government test results raise new concern that bulk shipments of rechargeable lithium batteries carried as cargo on passenger planes are susceptible to fires or explosions that could destroy the airliners.

Yet U.S. and international officials have been slow to adopt safety restrictions that might affect the powerful industries that depend on the batteries and the airlines that profit from shipping them. The batteries are used in products ranging from cellphones and laptops to hybrid cars.

Shipments of rechargeable batteries on passenger planes are supposed to be limited to no more than a handful in a single box, under safety standards set by the U.N.'s International Civil Aviation Organization and adopted by the U.S. and other nations. But a loophole permits shippers to pack many small boxes into one shipment and get around the rules. Tens of thousands of the batteries may be packed into pallets or containers and loaded into the cargo holds of wide-body passenger planes.

In an April test by the Federal Aviation Administration, a cargo container was packed with 5,000 lithium-ion batteries and a cartridge heater added to simulate a single battery experiencing uncontrolled overheating. The heat from the cartridge triggered escalating overheating in nearby batteries, which spread in a chain reaction. Temperatures reached about 1,100 degrees.

In emails, Jobs determined to keep iPod Apple-only

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Legendary Apple CEO Steve Jobs had seven words for a subordinate when he learned that a rival company was about to introduce a program that would let music fans buy songs anywhere and play them on Apple's iPod devices.

Jobs

"We may need to change things here," Jobs said in a terse, 2005 email that was shown to jurors in federal court Tuesday, on the opening day of trial in a billion-dollar antitrust lawsuit that accuses Apple Inc. of using unfair tactics to maintain its dominance in the digital music business.

Attorneys for an estimated 8 million consumers and iPod resellers say Jobs' email spurred an internal campaign to keep Apple's popular iPods free of music that wasn't purchased from Apple's own iTunes store. By updating the iTunes and iPod software to block music from competing online stores, Apple maintained a closed system that discouraged consumers from buying competing music players, plaintiffs' attorney Bonny Sweeney argued Tuesday. That froze out makers of rival devices, and allowed Apple to sell iPods at inflated prices, she told jurors.

Plaintiffs' attorney Patrick Coughlin also showed jurors a 2003 email from Jobs, written about the launch of another competitor's online music store, which said, "We need to make sure that when Music Match launches" their store, "they cannot use iPod."

Apple lawyers deny the company competed unfairly. Several high-ranking Apple executives are expected to testify during the trial.

And while Jobs died in 2011, he is a central figure in the class-action case. Sweeney said she will show a video of Jobs testifying in a 2011 deposition later this week. A partial transcript of that session shows Jobs asserting he couldn't remember details of actions taken several years earlier, while also betraying signs of his legendary impatience. In one exchange with attorneys, Jobs acknowledged that he helped write a press release statement that accused RealNetworks of "adopting the tactics and ethics of a hacker to break into the iPod."

Jobs' statements have turned out to be pivotal in other antitrust cases that Apple has faced in recent years, including one in which a judge found Apple conspired with publishers to set e-book prices. In another, a federal judge cited "compelling evidence" that Jobs was a central figure in an alleged conspiracy by leading tech companies to abstain from hiring each other's employees.

A Stanford economist will testify later in the iPod trial that Apple overcharged iPod buyers by nearly $350 million. Under federal antitrust law, the Cupertino, California company could be ordered to pay three times that amount if jurors agree that Apple's actions were anticompetitive.

Christmas price index

PNC's yearly Christmas Price Index accounting for the "Twelve Days of Christmas," with price change from 2013

Day 1	**Patridge in a Pear Tree** $207.68 *(+3.8% from last year)*	Day 7 **7 Swans a Swimming** $7,000 *(No change from last year)*
Day 2	**2 Turtle Doves** $125 *(No change from last year)*	Day 8 **8 Maids a Milking** $58 *(No change from last year)*
Day 3	**3 French Hens** $181.50 *(+10% from last year)*	Day 9 **9 Ladies Dancing** $7,552.84 *(No change from last year)*
Day 4	**4 Calling Birds** $599.96 *(No change from last year)*	Day 10 **10 Lords a Leaping** $5,348.24 *(+2% from last year)*
Day 5	**5 Golden Rings** $750 *(No change from last year)*	Day 11 **11 Pipers Piping** $2,635.20 *(No change from last year)*
Day 6	**6 Geese a Laying** $360 *(+71.4% from last year)*	Day 12 **12 Drummers Drumming** $2,854.80 *(No change from last year)*

Source: PNC Financial Services Group
Graphic: Tribune News Service

Total Cost: $27,673.21 *(+1% from 2013)*

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LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
17,879.55	2,066.55	4,755.81
+102.75	+13.11	+28.46
0.58%	0.64%	0.60%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.1914	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7538	Philippine Peso	44.7605
British Pound	0.6392	Indian Rupee	61.8788	Singapore Dollar	1.311
Canadian Dollar	1.1394	Indonesian Rupiah	12281.7	South Korean Won	1113.36
Chinese Yuan	6.1506	Japanese Yen	119.2531	Swiss Franc	0.9731
Euro	0.8083	Malaysian Ringgit	3.4412	Taiwan Dollar	31.1089
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2845	Thailand Baht	32.9167

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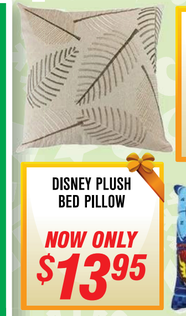

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Nation

Likely Pentagon nominee earned stripes quiet way

WASHINGTON (AP)—No household name, Ashton Carter has earned his stripes in the national security trenches the quiet way. For decades he has toiled as a defense thinker and strategist, nuclear expert, three-time Pentagon executive, budget guru and academician.

He never served in the military or in Congress, unlike many defense secretaries, including the man he would replace if President Barack Obama nominates him as Chuck Hagel's successor. But he spent a lot of time with troops during his 2011-2013 stint as deputy defense secretary and has built relationships with an entire generation of military leaders during his years in the Pentagon.

Administration officials said Tuesday that Carter, 60, is expected to be Obama's nominee, putting him in line to take over a far-flung, hard-to-manage department that has had an uneasy relationship with the White House.

Obama spokesman Josh Earnest stopped short of confirming that the president had made a decision, yet praised Carter effusively for serving "very, very ably" at the Pentagon previously and noted he had been easily confirmed by the Senate before.

Carter

"This is an indication that he fulfills some of the criteria that we've discussed in the past," Earnest said. "He is somebody who definitely deserves and has demonstrated strong bipartisan support for his previous service in government."

Administration officials said Obama could announce his nominee as early as this week. The officials insisted on anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the president's decision-making process publicly.

Carter would likely face a welcoming Senate confirmation hearing, unlike Hagel. As the nominee in February 2013 Hagel was hammered with sometimes sharp questioning that seemed to throw him off balance and raise doubts about his competence. Carter, however, would be tackling a pile of security problems at least as high as those Hagel took on, beginning with the further development of a strategy to degrade and eventually defeat the Islamic State militants in Syria and Iraq.

Sen. James Inhofe of Oklahoma, a senior Republican on the Armed Services Committee, said he would support Carter's nomination. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, another Armed Services Committee member, used a speech before Concerned Veterans of America to criticize the Obama administration in general for seeking a fourth defense secretary in six years.

Among other tough issues he would face immediately: Russia's continued provocations in Ukraine, tensions between the White House and Defense Department over closing the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, detention center, and concerns at the Pentagon over the impact of deep spending cuts.

Defense analyst Anthony Cordesman said that as Obama approaches the end of his presidency, the Pentagon post is "not particularly desirable" for anyone with broader political ambitions.

"It's very unlikely you will get political visibility or credit for being the secretary," said Cordesman, a longtime defense watcher at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "There are just too many problems and uncertainties."

A physicist by training, Carter moved to the top of the White House's short list after several leading contenders withdrew from consideration for what is typically a much-desired Cabinet spot. If Obama moves forward with Carter's nomination and he is approved by the Senate, he would replace Hagel, who resigned last week under pressure from Obama.

"He's a technocrat and a good manager," said Jane Harman, a former California congresswoman and now president of the Wilson Center. "He knows the acquisitions side of the building and has impressed the military with his commitment to the troops."

Nation's classrooms reflect on Ferguson decision

LOS ANGELES (AP)—When his high school English students came to class, Tom Rademacher knew there would be one thing on their mind: a grand jury's decision not to indict the white police officer who shot and killed Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri.

So the Minneapolis teacher put aside his lesson plans for the day and asked them a simple question: How did they feel?

Some teens said they were sad, others angry. One said he logged off Twitter and Facebook to avoid dealing with upset friends.

"That's the definition of white privilege," student Nia Golston replied. "You get to look away while I, being African-American, have to live like this."

In the aftermath of the Ferguson announcement, classrooms across the nation are taking up uncomfortable topics—race, police use of force and poverty, among others—to give students a voice and help them make sense of events.

Some teachers are using the discussion to weave in history lessons. One school in the Bronx read Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail."

Others are reviewing primary source documents, like officer Darren Wilson's grand jury testimony, to study the case in detail. Some are just inquiring about the emotions evoked by the killing of a person not much older than most high school students.

In a story so focused on young black people and their communities, "we aren't hearing enough from black teenagers about what they're feeling and what they're thinking about and what their experiences are," Rademacher said.

Sites such as TeachableMoment.org and groups including Facing History and Ourselves, a nonprofit in Brookline, Massachusetts, are providing teachers with guidance on incorporating Ferguson into their lessons. Teachers are sharing their ideas and classroom experiences online with hashtags such as #FergusonSyllabus and #FergusonInClass.

"All the things you hear in the larger community are happening in the microcosm called the classroom," said Steve Becton, social program director of urban education at Facing History and Ourselves. "For the teachers not allowing it to happen, I think it's a missed opportunity."

Becton advises teachers to ask nuanced questions: What is the role of law in society? And if a law seems insufficient, how can it be challenged? What is the relationship between African-American males and law enforcement?

2 children, adult killed in Tenn. school bus crash

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Two buses bringing children home from school collided on a Tennessee highway Tuesday afternoon, killing two students and an adult and injuring another 27 people.

AP
Authorities work the scene of an accident involving two school buses in Knoxville, Tenn., Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2014.

Police said a preliminary investigation indicated one bus made a sharp left turn, crossed over a concrete median and hit the second bus, which was traveling in the opposite direction. The second bus flipped onto its side and slid.

The children killed were in third grade or below, said Knoxville Police Chief David Rausch. The adult who died was an aide.

Three seriously injured people were taken to the University of Tennessee Medical Center and were in stable condition, Rausch said. Medical Center spokesman Jim Ragonese said a total of seven people were treated there, and three of them had been discharged by Tuesday evening.

East Tennessee Children's Hospital spokeswoman Erica Estep said another 20 children were being treated there for injuries that were not life-threatening.

Rausch said 18 of the 20 had been on a bus going home from Sunnyview Primary School, which serves kindergarten through second grade. He described their injuries as "bumps and scrapes." They were taken to the hospital on a city bus "to be checked out," he said.

The other bus involved in the crash was from Chilhowee Intermediate School, which serves third through fifth grade. Rausch said some children from that bus were taken by their families to the children's hospital.

Knox County Schools Superintendent Dr. Jim McIntyre fought back tears at a news conference. "This is an unspeakable tragedy," he said. "This is what we work every day to try to prevent."

Class was not being held at the two schools Wednesday, but counselors were being made available part of the day for students or families if needed, McIntyre said later in a statement.

Forrest Robinson, who works at a gas station and restaurant near the crash, said he heard a "really big bam." When he went to look, one of the buses was flipped and the other was "completely across the median."

He said parents soon arrived and some of them formed a prayer circle as they waited for news about their children.

The Knoxville News Sentinel reported that Rausch notified relatives of one of the deceased children at the scene, to screams and tears.

Nuke missileer 1st to be charged in drug probe

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Air Force is court-martialing a nuclear missile launch officer on drug and obstruction-of-justice charges stemming from a criminal investigation that led to the disclosure last winter of a separate exam-cheating scandal that implicated nearly 100 nuclear officers.

2nd Lt. Nicole Dalmazzi of the 341st Missile Wing at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana, is the first missileer, as launch officers are known, known to have been charged since the drug investigation was made public in January on the same day Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel visited the headquarters of the Air Force's land-based nuclear missile force.

The twin disclosures of alleged exam cheating and illegal drug use accelerated a wave of embarrassing news about the nuclear missile corps, which has been beset with discipline problems, low morale, leadership lapses and resource shortages. Last month Hagel announced plans for top-to-bottom changes in how the force is managed and operated. Ten days later he resigned, although Air Force officials say they are confident the reforms will move ahead.

Dalmazzi was charged with illegal drug use and obstructing the Air Force Office of Special Investigations probe by dyeing her hair to "alter the results of potential hair-follicle drug tests," according to Josh Aycock, a spokesman at Malmstrom. He would not elaborate on her alleged actions or the tests. He said her court martial is scheduled for Jan. 21.

Efforts to reach Dalmazzi for comment Tuesday were unsuccessful. As a missileer she is trained to operate the Minuteman 3 missile, which is armed with a nuclear warhead and stands ready for launch on short notice from an underground silo that is electronically linked to a launch control center, also underground, where two missileers are on duty around the clock.

Because of the sensitive nature of the job, with its many classified procedures and potential for costly mistakes, any allegation of drug use by missileers is concerning. A RAND Corp. report last year on workplace stresses for missileers and others in the nuclear missile corps found some suffering "burnout." It also found an elevated rate of behavioral issues, including domestic violence.

Dalmazzi's 341st Missile Wing at Malmstrom operates 150 of the Air Force's 450 Minuteman 3 intercontinental ballistic missiles, or ICBMs. The other 300 are evenly divided between Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota and F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming. The Air Force also operates a fleet of nuclear-capable bomber aircraft.

Asia

6 more bodies recovered near sunken SKorean ship

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Six more bodies have been recovered from the western Bering Sea near where a South Korean fishing ship sank earlier this week.

Kim Kang-ho from Sajo Industries, which owns the ship, said Wednesday that the bodies appear to be from the ship lost Monday in the waters near Russia. One fisherman's body was recovered Monday and seven fishermen were rescued. More than 50 are missing.

The bodies were found by fishing vessels searching the debris of the sunken Oryong 501, said Kim.

Furious relatives have blamed the company and the ship's captain for not doing enough to save their family members.

Officials from the ship's company said they were hanging onto a "glimmer of hope." But with continued rough seas and bad weather there were dwindling expectations that the fishermen would be found.

Coast guard helicopters from Russia and the United States and at least five fishing ships were searching for the missing, according to an official from Seoul's foreign ministry, who didn't want to be named citing office rules. He said the U.S. rescue ship Munro should arrive Thursday to help the search effort.

The crew included 35 Indonesians, 13 Filipinos, 11 South Koreans and one Russian inspector, according to the South Korean government. It's believed the ship began to list after stormy weather caused seawater to flood its storage areas, according to officials from the government and the company that owns the ship.

The ship left South Korea on July 10 to catch pollock, a winter delicacy in South Korea, according to company officials. The sinking struck a nerve in a country less than eight months from its deadliest maritime disaster in decades. The sinking of the Sewol ferry off South Korea's southwestern coast in April left more than 300 passengers dead, mostly teenagers on a school trip, causing nationwide grief and fury.

US defends Asian alliances against China criticism

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration pushed back Tuesday against veiled Chinese criticism of America's alliances in the Asia-Pacific, saying without them, the region would be more volatile.

China's Defense Minister Chang Wanquan last month called for countries to abandon what he described as "Cold War thinking," and in a high-profile foreign policy address last weekend, President Xi Jinping spoke of a "growing trend toward a multipolar world."

Those comments have been widely seen as jabs at the role of the U.S. as the sole global superpower.

The U.S. has enjoyed military predominance in the Pacific since the end of World War II—a region where China wields growing clout. The U.S. retains tens of thousands of forces based in Japan and South Korea, and treaty alliances with countries such as Australia and the Philippines.

Evan Medeiros, the top White House official on Asia policy, defended the U.S. effort to modernize and strengthen those alliances as part of its foreign policy "pivot" toward Asia, and build new partnerships with the likes of Myanmar and Vietnam. He said the U.S. wasn't imposing its will but responding to strong demand for it from the region.

"What would the regional security environment in Asia look like if the U.S. abandoned its alliances and dismantled its partnerships? I would argue that it would be far more uncertain, unstable and volatile," Medeiros told the National Bureau of Asian Research think tank.

"And the global implications of that for a country like the United States which has alliances all over the world would be very, very serious. Could that really be in any country's interest?" he said.

China views the Obama administration's "pivot" policy as an attempt to contain its rise. As China looks to take a bigger role on the global stage, it is promoting an alternative vision that stresses security cooperation among Asian nations themselves—although many have been spooked by China's own military buildup and expansive territorial claims.

While their strategies clash, Washington and Beijing are at the same time striving to deepen their relations. Xi hosted President Barack Obama in Beijing last month and they announced a significant agreement on combating climate change.

Medeiros underscored the point Tuesday, saying the U.S. wants its allies to have cooperative relations with China, including its military.

DAILY LIFE AP

A Filipino boy tries to jump over a stretched garter during a game called Chinese Garter in suburban Manila, Philippines on Sunday, Nov. 30, 2014. The popular game is played with two people holding both ends of a stretched garter horizontally while the others attempt to cross over it.

3 Hong Kong protest leaders to surrender to police

HONG KONG (AP)—Three founders of Hong Kong's pro-democracy protest movement called Tuesday for an end to street demonstrations to prevent more violence and take the campaign to a new stage, but it wasn't clear whether student protesters, who make up the bulk of the activists, would heed the call.

Professors Benny Tai Yiu-ting and Chan Kin-man and Pastor Chu Yiu-ming said they planned to surrender to police on Wednesday to take responsibility for protests that have shut down parts of the Asian financial center for more than two months.

Instead of street protests, the three said they hope to continue the campaign through networking among civic groups, community organizing and education in democracy and human rights.

The three are founders of the Occupy Central movement, which is trying to force China's government to scrap its requirement that candidates in inaugural 2017 elections for Hong Kong's leader be approved by a panel chosen by Beijing. However, the three represent only one faction of demonstrators, most of whom are students.

Hundreds of demonstrators remain entrenched in the main downtown protest site, building tents, work tables and other infrastructure, even as energy has diminished on the streets since the first surge of demonstrations in late September.

Joshua Wong, a prominent student leader, said Monday that he and two other members of his group would go on an indefinite hunger strike to press their demands.

"We admit that it's difficult in the future to have an escalated action, so besides suffering from batons and tear gas, we would like to use our bodies to direct public attention to the issue," Wong said Tuesday. "We are not sure if the hunger strike can put pressure on the government, but we hope that when the public realizes the student hunger strike, they will ask themselves what they can do next."

In the early hours of Monday, police armed with pepper spray, batons and riot shields clashed with activists carrying umbrellas as authorities moved to clear them out an area in front of the Hong Kong government complex where activist had been camped out.

The compound was forced to shut temporarily and the semiautonomous city's Beijing-backed leader said public patience was wearing thin, adding that police would "continue to take decisive action to enforce the law."

In a statement read to reporters, Tai, Chan and Chu said their surrender also would serve as a "silent denunciation of a heartless government."

"Tomorrow's battleground is expansive and now is the time to transform the people's strength into a sustainable civil society movement, to sow the spirit of democracy deep into the community," they said in the statement.

Tai said it wasn't clear whether police would simply send them home, or detain them for inciting the protests, which the Hong Kong and Chinese governments have denounced as illegal.

While the trio's call to end the protests threatened to fracture the movement, Tai denied they were abandoning the demonstrators.

"We just urge the occupiers to consider the importance to understand that the fight for democracy is a long battle," he said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Afghan official says insurgents kill 6 soldiers

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A wave of violence continued across Afghanistan Tuesday with Taliban insurgents killing Afghan soldiers in the northwest of the country as the Canadian embassy warned Canadians to leave for their own safety. Insurgents have stepped up attacks on the Afghan capital in recent weeks, specifically targeting foreigners. Since last Thursday, four foreigners, including a British embassy employee, have been killed in attacks claimed by the Taliban. The U.S. embassy said a van disguised as a Red Cross ambulance was "allegedly planning to conduct a (car bomb) attack against Western convoys or facilities in the Wazir Akbar Khan" diplomatic area.

China urges Taiwan to stay course on exchanges

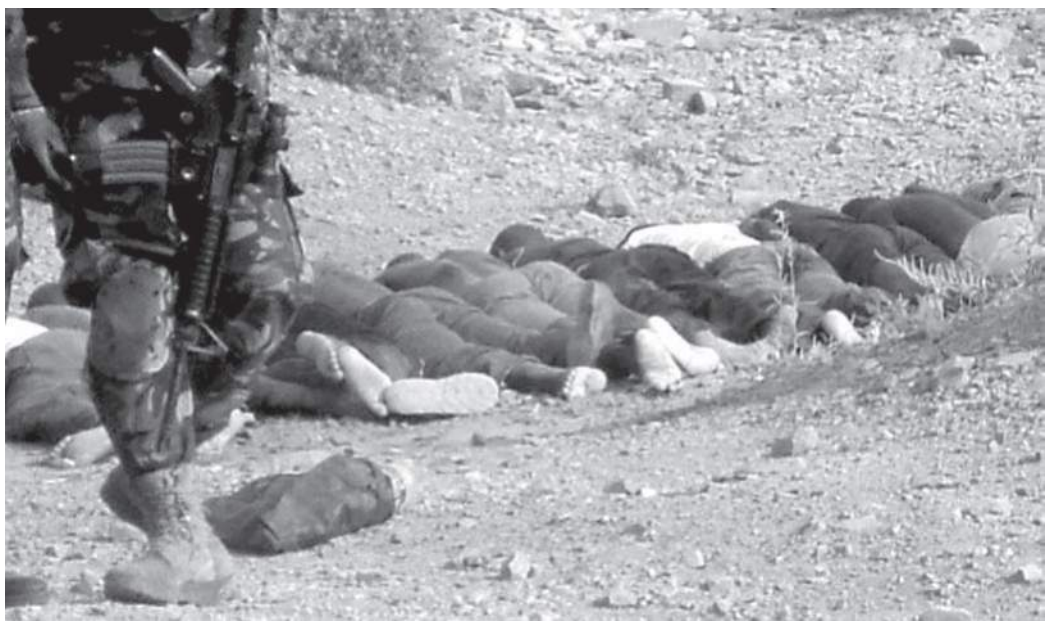
TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—China called on Taiwan on Wednesday to stay the course of deepening exchanges between the sides following a stunning electoral defeat for the island's ruling pro-China Nationalist Party. The statement posted to the website of the Cabinet's Taiwan Affairs Office followed Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou's announcement that he is stepping down as party chairman to take responsibility for the loss of nine city and county elections over the weekend. The election results reflected concerns over Ma's moves to integrate Taiwan's economy with China's, seen by many as a step toward Beijing's goal of gaining political control over the island. Greater interaction between the sides has brought "tangible benefits" to both, Taiwan Affairs Office spokesman Fan Liqing was quoted as saying in the statement.

Official: India nears deal for French fighter jets

NEW DELHI (AP)—India is close to an agreement to buy Rafale fighter planes from France, an Indian defense spokesman said Tuesday. The 12 billion euro ($15 billion) deal for 126 of the jets would be France's first foreign sale of the combat-tested planes. France and French manufacturer Dassault Aviation have been trying for years to sell the jets abroad without success. The Rafale has been in service for the French Air Force since 2006. Defense spokesman Sitanshu Kar said Tuesday that Indian Defense Minister Manohar Parrikar met with his French counterpart, Jean-Yves Le Drian, on Monday as part of an official visit to India. "All issues related to defense were discussed, including the Rafale," Kar said. "Both sides decided to adopt a fast-track approach wherever there are differences."

World

Militants kill 36 non-Muslims in northern Kenya



AP

A soldier of Kenya Defence Forces walks near the bodies of some dead Kenyans as they lie at a quarry, in Mandera county, Kenya Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2014.

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—The heavily armed men roused the sleeping quarry workers in the dead of night.

As in previous such attacks, the gunmen singled out the non-Muslims by asking them to recite the Islamic creed. Then they killed 36 of them—most with a gunshot to the back of the head, according to a survivor who hid nearby during the slaughter.

The Islamic militant group al-Shabab claimed responsibility for the methodical massacre in northern Kenya early Tuesday—10 days after a similar attack on a bus that killed 28—and it prompted President Uhuru Kenyatta to shake up his national security team amid public outrage over the continuing violence.

"I know we are all under a lot of pressure, but I appeal to each one of us: This is not a time to be cowed by the enemy," Kenyatta said in a nationally televised address.

"This is a war we must win," he said. "We will not flinch or relent in the war against terrorism in our country and our region."

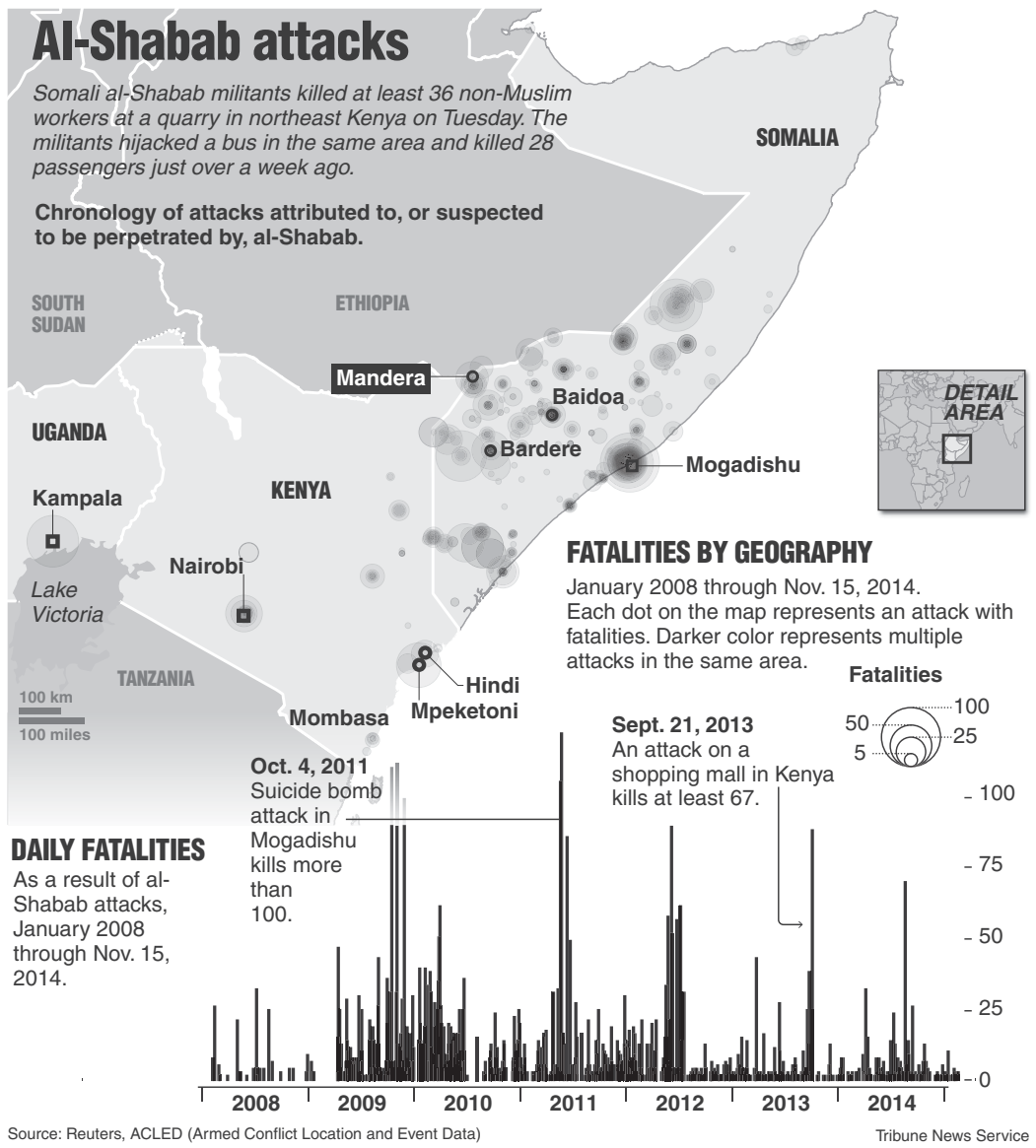
Al-Shabab has been fighting for years to establish hardline Islamic rule in neighboring Somalia. The al-Qaida-linked group has vowed to strike against Kenya for sending its troops into Somalia, and it has claimed it was behind the bus attack and the siege at the Westgate shopping mall in Nairobi last year that left 67 dead.

The group has suffered a series of setbacks this year. It lost control of a key coastal stronghold in Somalia to government and African Union troops in October, and its spiritual leader, Ahmed Abdi Godane, was killed in a U.S. airstrike Sept. 1.

But the Nov. 22 bus attack and the quarry killings Tuesday showed that the group is still capable of bold incursions into the east African country.

Al-Shabab spokesman Sheikh Ali Mohamud Rage said the quarry attack was a response to Kenya's deployment of troops to Somalia in 2011 and to alleged atrocities committed by the Kenyan army there. Al-Shabab said a recent airstrike had killed innocent people and destroyed their property.

In his security shakeup, Kenyatta fired Interior Minister Joseph Ole Lenku, a former hotelier whose competence had been questioned, and replaced him with Joseph Nkaissery, an opposition politician and retired army general. Kenyatta also accepted the resignation of Police Chief David Kimaiyo, who said he was taking early retirement for personal reasons.



Source: Reuters, ACLED (Armed Conflict Location and Event Data)

Tribune News Service

Lebanon says it has detained wife of IS leader

BEIRUT (AP)—Lebanese authorities detained a woman and young boy believed to be the wife and son of the reclusive Islamic State group leader, and were questioning the woman and conducting DNA tests on the child, senior Lebanese officials said Tuesday.

If their identities are confirmed, Lebanon may use the pair as bargaining chips to win the release of soldiers and police taken hostage by the extremists in cross-border attacks earlier this year.

al-Baghdadi

The woman, who was identified as an Iraqi, and the child were taken into custody about 10 days ago while carrying fake ID cards, the officials said.

Very little is known about Islamic State group leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi's personal life, including how many wives and children he has. Conservative interpretations of Islam allow men to marry up to four wives. The Islamic State group did not immediately comment on the detentions, but the faction's supporters on Twitter and militant websites cast doubt on the reports.

Adding to the confusion, the Lebanese army did not release an official statement regarding the pair.

A Lebanese military official identified the woman as Saja al-Dulaimi who was held by Syrian authorities and freed in a prisoner exchange with the Nusra Front, Syria's al-Qaida-linked branch, earlier this year. The official said the woman "confessed during interrogation" that she was al-Baghdadi's wife.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

In March, the Nusra Front freed more than a dozen Greek Orthodox nuns in exchange for the release of dozens of female prisoners by the Syrian government. A woman named Saja al-Dulaimi was reportedly on the list of prisoners freed by Damascus.

A judicial official said the interrogation of the woman was being supervised by Lebanon's military prosecutor, Saqr Saqr, and that a DNA test was underway to confirm that the child is her son. Experts said it would be difficult to confirm whether the woman is indeed al-Baghdadi's wife.

It was unclear what would have brought the woman and child to Lebanon, where IS controls no territory and enjoys only small—although growing—support in some predominantly Sunni Muslim areas.

The detentions added to the mystery that continues to surround al-Baghdadi, who has a $10 million U.S. bounty on his head. He has only made one known public appearance—a sermon he delivered in July at a mosque in Mosul just days after IS declared him the head of an Islamic state, or caliphate, in the territory the group controls in Syria and Iraq.

Last month, Iraqi officials claimed he was wounded in an airstrike. The U.S. has not confirmed those reports, and al-Baghdadi released a new audiotape days after he was purportedly hit.

The Lebanese daily As-Safir first reported the detention of the Islamic State leader's alleged relatives, saying the woman and boy were taken into custody near a border crossing point with Syria. It said the arrest came in "coordination with foreign intelligence agencies."

If the pair's identities are confirmed, the detentions could give Lebanese authorities leverage in their attempts to reach a prisoner-exchange deal with militants from the Islamic State group and the Nusra Front. The extremists have been holding more than 20 Lebanese soldiers and policemen hostage since August, and have demanded the release of Islamist prisoners held by Lebanon. On Monday night, the Nusra Front threatened to kill one of the soldiers it holds captive.

Lebanese troops have clashed repeatedly with militants along the border with Syria since August.

Ukraine parliament approves new government

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukraine's parliament approved the formation of a new government Tuesday, bringing an end to weeks of behind-the-scenes political wrangling following an October election that ushered in a group of pro-Western parties.

The new Cabinet has come together as government troops and Russian-backed separatist forces agreed on a tentative cease-fire in one war-stricken region along the Russian border. That may provide much-needed breathing space to a national leadership that will have to work fast to keep the anemic economy from collapse.

With the backing of parliament now secured, Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, 40, will continue in a position he has occupied since February.

Five political blocs, including Yatsenyuk's Popular Front party, last month formed a parliamentary coalition that has vowed to enact an agenda of drastic economic and political reform.

Yatsenyuk said the country is exhausted and drained by war, Russian military aggression and political conflict.

"The country needs radical changes and reforms," he told parliament before the Cabinet vote.

Tasks to be completed by the incoming government before year's end include bringing in laws to give more budget-raising powers to local authorities and reducing the number of taxes, Yatsenyuk said.

U.S. Vice President Joe Biden welcomed the formation of the new government.

"Today's announcement on the formation of a new government sets the stage for the difficult but necessary process of implementing reforms and delivering results," he said in a statement. "The United States will support Ukraine's new government to stabilize its economy, strengthen democratic institutions, and fight corruption."

New Cabinet ministers include several figures who received Ukrainian citizenship by presidential decree, including Finance Minister Natalie Jaresko, an American with experience working for the U.S. State Department.

Many of the ministers in the Cabinet retain their posts, including the foreign, defense and interior ministers.

Environment

Hotter, weirder: How climate has changed Earth

By SETH BORENSTEIN
AP SCIENCE WRITER

AP

A family riding an electric tricycle bike is silhouetted against the sun setting on a coal-fired power plant in Beijing, China Thursday, Nov. 13, 2014. Chinese leaders pledged for the first time to cap the country's decades-long growth of greenhouse gas emissions. Since China emits more carbon and other heat-trapping gases than any other country, the pledge boosted global efforts to prevent catastrophic climate change. Fulfilling its pledge, however, will require China to transform a booming economy that still largely depends on polluting industries such as steel production and manufacturing.

WASHINGTON (AP)—In the more than two decades since world leaders first got together to try to solve global warming, life on Earth has changed, not just the climate. It's gotten hotter, more polluted with heat-trapping gases, more crowded and just downright wilder.

The numbers are stark. Carbon dioxide emissions: up 60 percent. Global temperature: up six-tenths of a degree Fahrenheit. Population: up 1.7 billion people. Sea level: up 3 inches (7.5 centimeters). U.S. extreme weather: up 30 percent. Ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica: down 4.9 trillion tons of ice.

"Simply put, we are rapidly remaking the planet and beginning to suffer the consequences," says Michael Oppenheimer, professor of geosciences and international affairs at Princeton University.

Diplomats from more than 190 nations opened talks Monday at a United Nations global warming conference in Lima, Peru, to pave the way for an international treaty they hope to forge next year.

To see how much the globe has changed since the first such international conference—the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992—The Associated Press scoured data bases from around the world. The analysis, which looked at data since 1983, concentrated on 10-year intervals ending in 1992 and 2013. This is because scientists say single years can be misleading and longer trends are more telling.

Our changing world by the numbers:

WILD WEATHER

Since 1992, there have been more than 6,600 climate, weather and water major disasters worldwide, causing more than $1.6 trillion in damage and killing more than 600,000 people, according to the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters in Belgium, which tracks the world's catastrophes.

While climate related, not all can be blamed on man-made warming or climate change. Still, extreme weather has noticeably increased over the years, says Debby Sapir, who runs the center and its database. From 1983 to 1992 the world averaged 147 climate, water and weather disasters each year. Over the past 10 years, that number has jumped to an average 306 a year.

In the United States, an index of climate extremes—hot and cold, wet and dry—kept by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has jumped 30 percent from 1992 to 2013, not counting hurricanes, based on 10-year averages.

NOAA also keeps track of U.S. weather disasters that cost more than $1 billion, when adjusted for inflation. Since 1992, there have been 136 such billion-dollar events.

Worldwide, the 10-year average for weather-related losses adjusted for inflation was $30 billion a year from 1983-1992, according to insurance giant Swiss Re. From 2004 to 2013, the cost was more than three times that on average, or $131 billion a year.

Sapir and others say it would be wrong to pin all, or even most, of these increases on climate change alone. Population and poverty are major factors, too. But they note a trend of growing extremes and more disasters, and that fits with what scientists have long said about global warming.

It's this increase that's "far scarier" than the simple rise in temperatures, University of Illinois climate scientist Donald Wuebbles says.

TEMPERATURE

It's almost a sure thing that 2014 will go down as the hottest year in 135 years of record keeping, meteorologists at NOAA's National Climatic Data Center say. If so, this will be the sixth time since 1992 that the world set or tied a new annual record for the warmest year.

The globe has broken six monthly heat records in 2014 and 47 since 1992. The last monthly cold record set was in 1916.

So the average annual temperature for 2014 is on track to be about 58.2 degrees Fahrenheit (14.6 degrees Celsius), compared with 57.4 degrees F (14.1 degrees C) in 1992. The past 10 years have averaged a shade below 58.1 degrees F (nearly 14.5 degrees C)—six-tenths of a degree warmer than the average between 1983 and 1992.

THE OCEANS

The world's oceans have risen by about 3 inches (7.5 centimeters) since 1992 and gotten a tad more acidic—by about half a percent—thanks to chemical reactions caused by the absorption of carbon dioxide, scientists at NOAA and the University of Colorado say.

Every year sea ice cover shrinks to a yearly minimum size in the Arctic in September—a measurement that is considered a key climate change indicator. From 1983 to 1992, the lowest it got on average was 2.62 million square miles (6.79 million square kilometers). Now the 10-year average is down to 1.83 million square miles (4.74 million square kilometers), according to the National Snow and Ice Data Center.

That loss—an average 790,000 square miles (2.05 million square kilometers) since 1992—overshadows the slight gain in sea ice in Antarctica, which has seen an average gain of 110,000 square miles (285,000 million square kilometers) of sea ice over the past 22 years.

ON LAND

The world's population in 1992 was 5.46 billion. Today, it's nearly a third higher, at 7.18 billion. That means more carbon pollution and more people who could be vulnerable to global warming.

The effects of climate change can be seen in harsher fire seasons. Wildfires in the western United States burned an average of 2.7 million acres (1.1 million hectares) each year between 1983 and 1992; now that's up to 7.3 million acres (2.95 million hectares) from 1994 to 2013, according to the National Interagency Fire Center.

And some of the biggest climate change effects on land are near the poles where people don't often see them. From 1992 to 2011, Greenland's ice sheet lost 3.35 trillion tons of ice, according to calculations made by scientists using measurements from NASA's GRACE satellite. Antarctica lost 1.56 trillion tons of ice over the same period.

THE AIR

Scientists simply point to greenhouse gas emissions, mostly carbon dioxide, that form a heat trapping blanket in our air.

There's no need to average the yearly amount of carbon dioxide pollution: It has increased steadily, by 60 percent, from 1992 to 2013. In 1992, the world spewed 24.9 billion tons of carbon dioxide; now it is 39.8 billion, according to the Global Carbon Project, an international consortium.

China has tripled its emissions from 3 billion tons to 11 billion tons a year. The emissions from the U.S. have gone up more slowly, about 6 percent, from 5.4 billion tons to 5.8 billion tons. India also has tripled its emissions, from 860 million tons to 2.6 billion tons. Only European countries have seen their emissions go down, from 4.5 billion tons to 3.8 billion tons.

WHAT SCIENTISTS SAY

"Overall, what really strikes me is the missed opportunity," Andrew Dessler, a climate scientist at Texas A&M University, says in an email of the data.

"We knew by the early 1990s that global warming was coming, yet we have done essentially nothing to head off the risk. I think that future generations may be justifiably angry about this."

"The numbers don't lie," adds Michael Mann, a climate scientist at Penn State. "Greenhouse gases are rising steadily and the cause is fossil fuel burning and other human activities. The globe is warming, ice is melting and our climate is changing as a result."

In Celebration Of Her New Life

†MARIA DLR. KAAINOA

DOB: June 7, 1952 • DOD: November 27, 2014

In her new life, she now joins her:

Parents: †Joaquin San Nicolas Reyes
†Juana Torres Pangelinan Reyes

Parents-in-law: †John Simeon Kaainoa
†Felicidad Misa Kaainoa

Son: †Mario DLR. Kaainoa

Siblings: †Pedro P. Reyes
†Filipe P. Reyes
†Consolation T. Hocog
†Angelina P. Cruz

Siblings-in-law: †Antonio M. Hocog
†Francisco P. Deleon Guerrero
†Juan I. Iguel
†Leon Ogarto
†Ignacio P. Cruz
†Maria A. Pangelinan
†Lorna Reyes

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Husband: Juan Mesa Kaainoa

Children: Kamisha and Jesse Dominguez & Children
Jack Dan DLR. Kaainoa
Juana and Jim Brel & Children
Esther and Shay & Children
Lucresia and Paul Silk & Children
Sheldon DLR. Kaainoa & Children

Siblings: Jose T. Pangelinan and Limei Yang & Children
Moises T. and Kathalina K. Pangelinan & Children
Antonio P. and Connie Reyes & Children
Juan P. and Elaine B. Reyes & Children

Sister-in-law: Lani P. Reyes & Children

Siblings-in-law: Simon M. and Elenita S. Kaainoa & Children
David M. Kaainoa
Hannah K. Ogarto & Children
Dolores K. Iguel & Children
Lorette K. Deleon Guerrero & Children
Leonar Misa & Children

She will also be missed by numerous nephews, nieces, godchildren, cousins, aunts, uncles, and friends.

On Friday, December 15, 2014, at 7:30 a.m. she will be escorted from the Commonwealth Health Center Chapel to the Nuestra Señora Bithen Delos Remedios Church for viewing. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. Interment Service will follow at the Tanapag Cemetery.

Your thoughts, prayers, words of comfort and presence are sincerely appreciated.

The Family

Life & Style

Woman sues Bill Cosby, claiming underage abuse

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Bill Cosby was sued Tuesday by a Southern California woman who claims the comedian molested her in a bedroom of the Playboy Mansion around 1974 when she was 15 years old.

Judy Huth's sexual battery lawsuit does not specify how much she is seeking from Cosby, who has in recent weeks faced renewed accusations that he drugged and sexually assaulted more than a dozen women for many years.

Huth's lawsuit filed in Los Angeles Superior Court, however, is the first time that a woman has claimed she was underage when she was abused, and it is the first lawsuit Cosby has faced claiming sexual abuse since 2005.

Huth's lawsuit states that she and a 16-year-old friend first met Cosby at a Los Angeles-area film shoot and the comedian gave the girls drinks a week later at a tennis club.

The lawsuit states that Cosby took them to the Playboy Mansion after several drinks, and told the teenagers to lie and say they were 19 years old if asked. Her lawsuit states Cosby forced her to perform a sex act on him with his hand.

Cosby

An email message sent to Cosby's attorney Martin Singer was not immediately returned. Singer has denied previous accusations or said the women raising the claims in interviews had been discredited.

Singer's statement does not apply to a lawsuit brought in 2005 by Andrea Constand, who claimed Cosby drugged and molested her at his suburban Philadelphia mansion in 2004. Constand, who worked for the women's basketball team at Temple University, and Cosby settled the case before trial.

Cosby resigned from the university's board of trustees on Monday. He had been the school's public face, appearing in advertisements, fundraising campaigns and delivering commencement speeches.

The accusations have put a significant dent in Cosby's recent comeback efforts, forcing the cancellation of shows on his comedy tour and prompting Netflix and NBC to shelve projects featuring the comedian.

Cosby, 77, has never been criminally charged stemming from any of the sex-abuse allegations, many of which date back to the 1970s and 1980s.

Huth claims she suffered severe emotional distress and that she discovered its impact on her within the past three years, which allows her to file the lawsuit under California law.

"This traumatic incident, at such a tender age, has caused psychological damage and mental anguish for (Huth) that has caused significant problems throughout her life," the lawsuit states.

Taylor Swift stars at Victoria's Secret show

LONDON (AP)—Supermodels, million-dollar bras, rhinestones and glitter galore—it can only be a Victoria's Secret catwalk show.

The U.S. lingerie label brought its annual spectacle to London for the first time on Tuesday, dazzling guests with a high-octane mix of fashion and entertainment that featured 47 extravagantly dressed models and performances by pop princess Taylor Swift.

Models sashayed down the catwalk wearing lingerie paired with sparkly, over-the-top costumes: think giant butterfly wings, full feather skirts, and gold knee-high stiletto boots. Top models Adriana Lima and Alessandra Ambrosio donned the brand's "fantasy bras"—encrusted with thousands of jewels and worth $2 million each—and Karlie Kloss wore gilded angel wings made of 18K gold.

Unlike most mainstream fashion shows, models walking for the lingerie label are told to have fun and flirt with the audience. They also got to wink, dance and laugh onstage with Swift, who appeared in a glamorous pink and black lace outfit. The singer later changed into a racy black lingerie set worn with a matching lace cape.

Ariana Grande and Ed Sheeran also featured as models strutted around them.

Asked whether he was nervous about performing so close to scantily-clad women, Sheeran joked: "That's how I usually perform."

"It's one of the only times I've ever played when the attention isn't on the musician, so it's an odd thing." he added.

Ahead of the show, model Lily Aldridge told reporters she was looking forward to a fun performance.

"You can be sexy and have fun and smile. You get to let your personality shine, so I love that," she said.

Aldridge called the performance a "little slumber party that we get to have in London"—albeit an expensive and slickly managed one. Champagne flowed for the hundreds of guests who turned out in tuxedos and evening gowns to watch the show, which ended with the models parading and dancing amid hundreds of balloons. A post-show party followed late into the night.

The model said she was looking forward to hitting the dance floor at the party.

"Yeah, I'm going to dance tonight. I'm going to probably eat pizza. I'm very excited about it. I packed a Cadbury fruit nut bar," she said, laughing.

The show will air in the U.S. on CBS on Dec. 9.

AP

Models display creations alongside singer Taylor Swift, front left, at the Victoria's Secret fashion show in London, Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2014. ▼

'A Most Violent Year' is named best film by NBR

NEW YORK (AP)—With a decidedly quirky batch of selections, the National Board of Review thrust its support squarely behind the New York drama "A Most Violent Year," naming it best film and awarding its stars Oscar Isaac and Jessica Chastain.

Announcing its annual awards Tuesday, the National Board of Review went for several unexpected choices. J.C. Chandor's "A Most Violent Year," in which Isaac plays a family man struggling amid the urban crime of 1981 New York, hasn't been a favorite in the awards mix early in the season. It opens in late December.

The group also handed best director to Clint Eastwood for his upcoming Navy SEAL drama "American Sniper," also a late year release.

Isaac shares the best actor award with Michael Keaton for the showbiz satire "Birdman." Keaton's co-star, Edward Norton, was also given best supporting male actor.

Julianne Moore took best actress for "Still Alice," in which she plays a woman with early onset Alzheimer's.

The wins were the second in two days for Moore and Keaton, both honored Monday by the Gotham Independent Awards. Hollywood's lengthy awards season kicked off Monday with the New York Film Critics Circle naming Richard Linklater's "Boyhood" best film of the year, and the Gothams opting for "Birdman."

In perhaps the National Board of Review's most eccentric choice, best screenplay went to Phil Lord and Christopher Miller for their self-referential animated toy film "The Lego Movie." Yet the National Board of Review—which likes to spread its awards around to attract the most stars to its Manhattan gala—still opted to award best animated feature to the DreamWorks sequel "How to Train Your Dragon 2."

Chris Rock will receive the group's "spotlight" award for writing, directing and starring in his comedy "Top Five." The group's "freedom of expression" award will go to both Jon Stewart's "Rosewater," about a journalist unjustly imprisoned in Iran, and the Martin Luther King Jr. tale "Selma."

For his transfer of Thomas Pynchon's "Inherent Vice," Paul Thomas Anderson was awarded best adapted screenplay. Upcoming British star Jack O'Connell was named breakthrough performance for his lead turns in both Angelina Jolie's upcoming World War II epic "Unbroken" and the British prison drama "Starred Up."

Scarlett Johansson weds in secret Montana ceremony

AP
Scarlett Johansson arrives at The Independent Film Project's 24th Annual Gotham Independent Film Awards at Cipriani Wall Street on Monday, Dec. 1, 2014, in New York.

PHILIPSBURG, Mont. (AP)—Scarlett Johansson and longtime partner Romain Dauriac were secretly married this fall in western Montana.

The couple tied the knot in the small, scenic town of Philipsburg, Granite County Clerk of Court Carol Bohrnsen said Tuesday.

"It's a beautiful little spot," Bohrnsen said.

Johansson and Dauriac, a French former journalist, had been engaged since September 2013. They welcomed a daughter, Rose, in September.

Bohrnsen said the couple went to the Granite County Courthouse themselves to get a license. The document, later filed with the county, shows the wedding took place Oct. 1.

"They were nice people," she said of the couple. "I thought Scarlett was very personable. A very sweet personality."

It wasn't known exactly where the nuptials were held, though Philipsburg is home to The Ranch at Rock Creek, which bills itself as a luxury ranch resort.

Last year, Bohrnsen issued a wedding license to actress Kate Bosworth and film director Michael Polish. They wed at The Ranch at Rock Creek.

Johansson previously was married to Ryan Reynolds. Her recent acting credits include "Lucy," "Chef," and "Captain America: The Winter Soldier."

Wal-Mart denies stalling in Tracy Morgan lawsuit

Morgan

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—Wal-Mart on Tuesday denied claims by lawyers for actor-comedian Tracy Morgan that the giant retailer is stalling a federal lawsuit over a fatal highway crash in New Jersey last summer.

In a court filing Monday, attorneys for Morgan opposed a motion by Wal-Mart driver Kevin Roper to intervene in the case. Roper isn't named as a defendant but is facing criminal charges in New Jersey. He is seeking to have the lawsuit delayed pending the resolution of his criminal case.

Morgan's attorneys accused Wal-Mart of stalling to avoid the disclosure of its safety practices.

The Bentonville, Arkansas-based Wal-Mart filed a letter with the court Tuesday that denied the accusation and said the company has taken no position on Roper's motion.

"Plaintiffs' accusation that Wal-Mart is somehow behind Mr. Roper's motion in an attempt to delay discovery is simply false," the company's attorneys wrote.

Last month, the federal judge overseeing the case set the next in-person settlement conference for early March and scheduled deadlines extending to November of 2015 for both sides to file motions.

Morgan, a former "Saturday Night Live" and "30 Rock" star, was returning from a performance in Delaware in June when the Wal-Mart truck driven by Roper slammed into the back of his limo van. Fellow comedian James McNair was killed, and Morgan and two others were seriously injured.

After a status conference with attorneys for both sides last month, Morgan's attorney, Benedict Morelli, said Morgan is fighting to recover from a traumatic brain injury suffered in the crash and is uncertain if he will be "the Tracy Morgan he once was."

A preliminary investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board said Roper was driving 65 mph in the 60 seconds before he slammed into the van. The speed limit on that stretch of the New Jersey Turnpike is 55 mph and was lowered to 45 mph that night because of construction.

Smith, Leto, Hardy suit up for 'Suicide Squad

Smith

NEW YORK (AP)—Will Smith, Jared Leto and Tom Hardy are suiting up for DC Comics' supervillain team-up film "Suicide Squad."

Warner Bros. confirmed the much anticipated casting of the film in an announcement Tuesday. Smith will star as Deadshot, Hardy will play the group's leader, Rick Flagg, and Leto will take on the Joker, following in Heath Ledger's footsteps. The rest of the gang will be Margot Robbie as Harley Quinn; Jai Courtney as Boomerang; and Cara Delevinge as Enchantress.

David Ayer, who recently released the World War II tank thriller "Fury," will write and direct.

"Suicide Squad" is to be released in August 2016.

Oscar Isaac calls 'Star Wars' trailer mind-blowing

Isaac

NEW YORK (AP)—Oscar Isaac is as wowed by the new "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" trailer as are its fans.

Isaac, one of the stars of the highly anticipated sequel, said the trailer was "pretty mind-blowing" during an appearance at Monday night's Gotham Independent Film Awards.

"I shot (the film) this summer and it was one of the greatest experiences of my life," the actor, who was nominated for a Gotham award for his role in "A Most Violent Year," told The Associated Press.

But when it came time to discuss the particulars of his character, Isaac was not about to reveal anything—including rumors that he's playing the son of Princess Leia and Han Solo.

"That's what you got from the trailer?" Isaac asked. "Hey, you run with that buddy. You take that and run with it."

When asked if he was Luke Skywalker's son, he laughed.

"I can't say a word. What are you doing? I'm not going to tell you. I can't say a word, man," Isaac said.

The official "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" has been viewed more than 10 million times since it debuted on Friday. The J.J. Abrams-directed film is set for release in December of 2015.

Man sues Nintendo over Donkey Kong costume outing

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A man who says he suffered a serious heart condition after wearing a Donkey Kong ape costume at the Los Angeles Zoo has sued Nintendo.

The Los Angeles Times says Parker Mills sued Monday in Los Angeles County Superior Court.

His attorney, Tyler Barnett, says Mills was hired to play the ape character in May for the launch of a Nintendo 3DS game.

Mills claims he was denied breaks while talking to zoo guests and didn't get a required ice pack to cool him.

His lawsuit says a company ambassador hired to escort Mills didn't provide proper oversight.

His attorneys say Mills suffered a tearing of his aortic walls and now has a permanent heart defibrillator.

A call seeking comment from Nintendo representatives wasn't immediately returned.

Writer's sad story has happy ending almost 14 years later

DEAR ABBY: You mentioned in a recent column that few people write to follow up on what happened since their original letter was published. You printed mine April 1, 2001.

I am "Hurting in Houston," the son who, with his partner, was suddenly no longer welcome in his parents' home after they moved to a retirement community, because they were afraid their neighbors would shun them if they discovered they had a gay son. You advised that I should live my own life and, maybe, someday they would come around—and that is what I did.

After a number of years, I received a call from a sibling informing me that my father was ill with only a short time left, and I should fly to their city to see him. I asked if I was wanted, and he said, "It doesn't matter, just come!" So I swallowed my pride, flew there and made my way to the hospice house.

Although my mother received me well, Dad did not, and we never had a good moment before he died a few days later. I told my mother I was staying for the funeral whether she liked it or not and had my partner fly in.

After the service there was a gathering at my mother's house with all their friends. I introduced my partner to them and everyone was as kind as could be. Many mentioned their own gay siblings or relatives.

When the event was over, my mother said, "Wow, this has all been pretty silly, hasn't it?" It was such a colossal understatement that I could not find words to respond.

Ten years have passed; my mother is now in hospice care with only a short time left. We have built a great relationship, and she loves my partner of more than 20 years very much. We are glad to be able to be there for her.

Much has changed in the world over these years and the acceptance of gays has been remarkable, but for me, having these last years with my mother's love will be a comfort I can hold onto for the rest of my life.

I have no great moral here, I just wanted to let you know what has happened. Thank you, Abby.

NO LONGER "HURTING IN HOUSTON"

DEAR NO LONGER HURTING: And thank YOU for letting me and my readers know your story has a happy ending. I couldn't be more pleased to know you are doing well.

In case you didn't see it, there was a follow-up column regarding your letter that was published May 24, 2001, in which a family in California offered to adopt you and your partner! PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) was mentioned in that follow-up and is still an excellent resource for building bridges of understanding in families. Find it at pflag.org.

DEAR ABBY: I am the caregiver for my husband, who is in a wheelchair and has to be helped when using the bathroom. When we are out in public and he needs a bathroom, should I use the handicapped stall in the men's or take him into the women's? Unisex restrooms—one big room that can be locked—are wonderful.

CAREGIVER IN VIRGINIA

DEAR CAREGIVER: I agree, but not all buildings and businesses provide unisex restrooms. If none is available, then the rule of thumb is the disabled person should use the restroom of his/her gender—in your case, the men's room.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

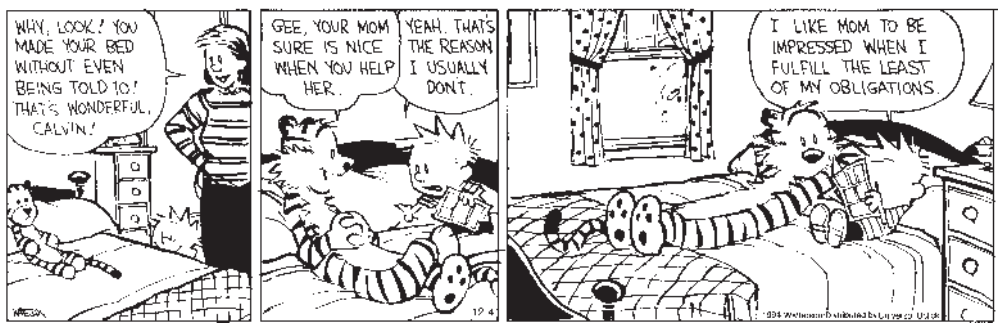
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

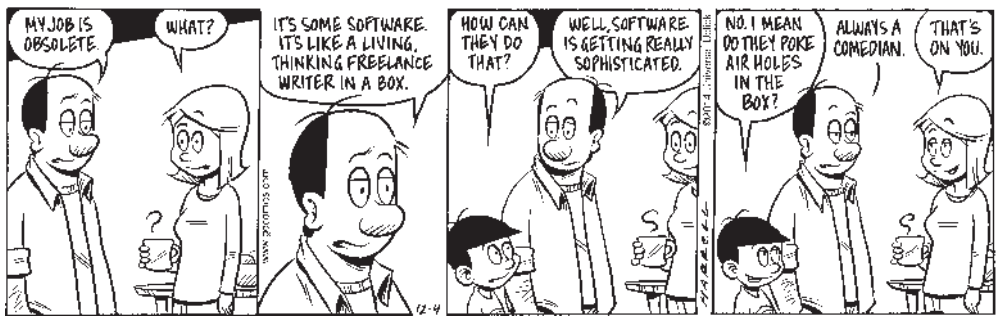

WHY, LOOK! YOU MADE YOUR BED WITHOUT EVEN BEING TOLD TO! THAT'S WONDERFUL, CALVIN!
GEE, YOUR MOM SURE IS NICE WHEN YOU HELP HER.
YEAH. THAT'S THE REASON I USUALLY DON'T.
I LIKE MOM TO BE IMPRESSED WHEN I FULFILL THE LEAST OF MY OBLIGATIONS.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


MY JOB IS OBSOLETE.
WHAT?
IT'S SOME SOFTWARE. IT'S LIKE A LIVING, THINKING FREELANCE WRITER IN A BOX.
HOW CAN THEY DO THAT?
WELL, SOFTWARE IS GETTING REALLY SOPHISTICATED.
NO. I MEAN DO THEY POKE AIR HOLES IN THE BOX?
ALWAYS A COMEDIAN.
THAT'S ON YOU.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I'M SANTA'S ADVANCE MAN.
HOW LONG UNTIL I CAN SEE SANTA?
Well, if you slip me a fiver, I could possibly move you up in line.
I DON'T HAVE FIVE DOLLARS.
NAUGHTY LIST.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

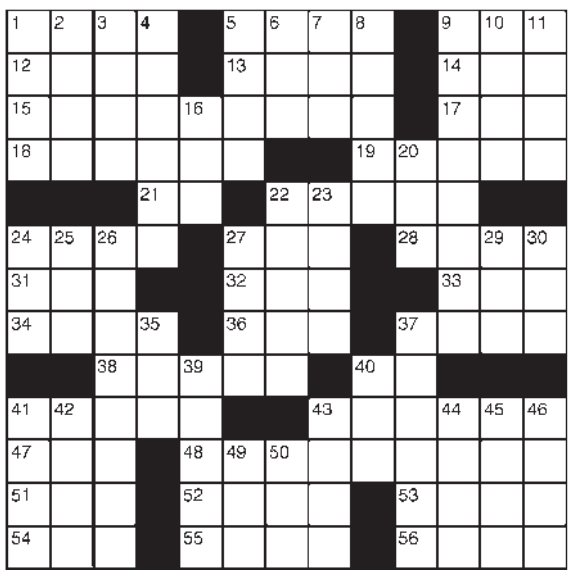
ACROSS
1 Voting alliance
5 Spill the beans
9 Japanese sash
12 Former attorney general
13 Boo-Boo's mentor
14 Affirmative action?
15 Touring
17 Attempt
18 Moe, Larry or Curly
19 Lucy's pal
21 "Why should I care?"
22 Holmes or Couric
24 Highlander
27 Apiece
28 Gymnastics equipment
31 Charged bit
32 Dine
33 Playwright Levin
34 Closet invader
36 Whatever number
37 Heart of the matter
38 17-syllable verse
40 Syllable from Santa
41 Go on a shopping spree
43 Canine tooth
47 Antiquated
48 Healing
51 "Cock-a-doodle-—!"
52 Stead
53 Ocean predator
54 Suitable
55 Inbox junk
56 Command to Rover

DOWN
1 Family biz abbr.
2 Fast time
3 Aware of
4 Kathie Lee, to Hoda
5 British cowbarn
6 Privy
7 Khan title
8 Fancy bathroom fixture
9 Broadcasting
10 Prove tedious
11 Pastoral poem
16 Id counterpart
20 Burton or Robbins
22 Sandra's "Speed" co-star
23 Bohemian
24 Video-game family name
25 Bill's partner
26 Promptly
27 Pinnacle
29 Play about Capote
30 Lisa Simpson's instrument
35 — Solo
37 Sagan subject
39 Pedestal occupants
40 Color
41 Carbonated quaff
42 Take to a beanbag chair
43 Pal
44 Saucy
45 Erstwhile Peruvian
46 June 6, 1944
49 Pinch
50 Afternoon get-together

Solution time: 24 mins.

O	V	E	N		R	F	D		R	O	S	A
C	I	D	O		O	U	R		I	V	A	N
O	V	E	R	C	O	M	E		V	E	N	T
R	A	N	S	O	M		S	O	I	R	E	E
			E	L	F		S	P	E	C		
A	D	O		T	J	B		T	R	A	P	S
C	A	V	S		L	E	A		A	S	I	A
T	H	E	T	A		A	C	E		T	N	T
			R	O	W	S		A	W	N		
J	A	C	K	E	T		D	E	I	C	E	S
O	B	O	E		O	V	E	R	C	A	L	L
A	L	A	R		R		M		A	P	S	E
N	E	T	S		M	A	Y		D	E	E	D

Yesterday's answer 12-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tyra Banks, 41; Jay-Z, 45; Marisa Tomei, 50; Jeff Bridges, 65.

Happy Birthday: Protect your standard of living by learning how to budget, pursuing new professional skills and working to raise your earning potential. Educational pursuits will bring benefits you didn't anticipate, allowing you to secure a position that fits the changing economic climate. Embrace the future. Updating and upgrading should be your intent. Your numbers are 3, 10, 17, 24, 29, 37, 42.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Revamp your current financial strategy. You can raise your income if you invest wisely. Obtain knowledge in order to change your career or to allow you to earn a living from home or while traveling. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Underestimating someone's motives will be costly. Keep your finger on the pulse and your head clear in order to avoid someone taking advantage of your generosity and trusting nature. Don't spend unnecessarily. Put more time and effort into your job. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Make home improvements that will ease your stress by cutting costly living expenses. A partnership can help you take control of your life by giving you more time to spend perfecting your skills and marketing your services. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't be a follower. If you want to do something differently, come up with your own idea and make it happen. Someone you least expect will attempt to mislead you. Protect your heart, your job and your reputation. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Dig deep and ferret out information that will help you stay ahead of the competition. Maintain your position and you will stand out and impress someone you love. Taking action will prove you are serious about what you say and believe. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't feel obligated to make the first move. You are best to let situations unfold naturally and without interference. Put greater emphasis on upholding your promises. What you do will reflect who you are. Protect your reputation. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Be prepared to make a move if necessary. Organization will be critical in allowing you to act decisively. A close bond will form with someone you share common interests with. Don't hesitate to express your thoughts and hopes for the future. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Look into new job prospects. Networking will pay off if you reference what you have accomplished. Attracting interest in your talents will be the first step to achieving your dreams. Don't stop when there is so much to gain. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Speak up, share ideas and make changes personally and domestically. What you do now can help create a bright future. Surround yourself with people you can count on and the things that make you happy. Don't settle for second best. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Put a little muscle behind your words. Following through will show everyone you mean business. The changes you make at home will help you build a strong base for a better future. Mix business with pleasure and excel. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Think fast. A job prospect looks inviting. What you do to help someone in a tight spot will buy you respect and a referral that will shape a brighter future. Love is highlighted, and celebrating will encourage romance. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You have to clear your mind before you make a decision. An unrealistic view of a situation will cost you emotionally and financially. Don't make personal changes before settling pending disputes, legal matters or health issues. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are an achiever and a mentor. You are competitive, inquisitive and aggressive.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7			2			9	
5			1		6	4		3
	1							
	9			7			5	
1			2		3			6
	3			4			1	
							6	
9		2	5		4			1
	6			3			2	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	5	9	6	3	1	4	2	7
3	7	2	5	4	8	6	1	9
1	4	6	7	9	2	8	3	5
9	1	5	3	6	4	2	7	8
6	2	4	8	7	9	3	5	1
7	8	3	1	2	5	9	4	6
5	9	7	2	8	3	1	6	4
4	3	1	9	5	6	7	8	2
2	6	8	4	1	7	5	9	3

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/03

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN **Solution: 12 letters**

A	C	O	R	M	A	N	R	A	B	K	G	N	I	R
R	A	I	L	W	A	Y	A	W	D	E	E	P	S	I
T	N	E	N	L	A	N	D	U	N	E	S	Y	A	V
S	O	N	I	Y	N	O	T	S	E	R	P	T	T	E
B	E	I	S	L	E	D	N	E	M	C	S	I	L	R
E	S	A	A	I	N	E	P	S	A	A	S	C	E	S
S	K	L	W	L	K	I	A	Y	R	R	E	B	D	S
S	I	B	E	E	E	L	W	O	B	F	C	U	R	O
B	T	E	E	I	T	K	D	E	A	C	A	H	A	R
O	E	A	M	R	T	A	A	C	K	A	L	A	O	C
R	O	V	Ⓡ	I	N	K	K	L	N	S	P	D	B	R
O	N	E	Ⓤ	A	W	R	O	S	U	I	U	A	E	E
U	I	R	Ⓞ	R	A	S	T	A	R	N	C	N	K	T
G	N	S	Ⓣ	P	Z	Z	A	J	T	O	T	A	A	A
H	O	T	E	L	A	R	D	E	H	T	A	C	W	W

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Yesterday's Answer: Happy Gilmore

Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 or 18 can be purchased online in time for the holidays at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 130 puzzles.)

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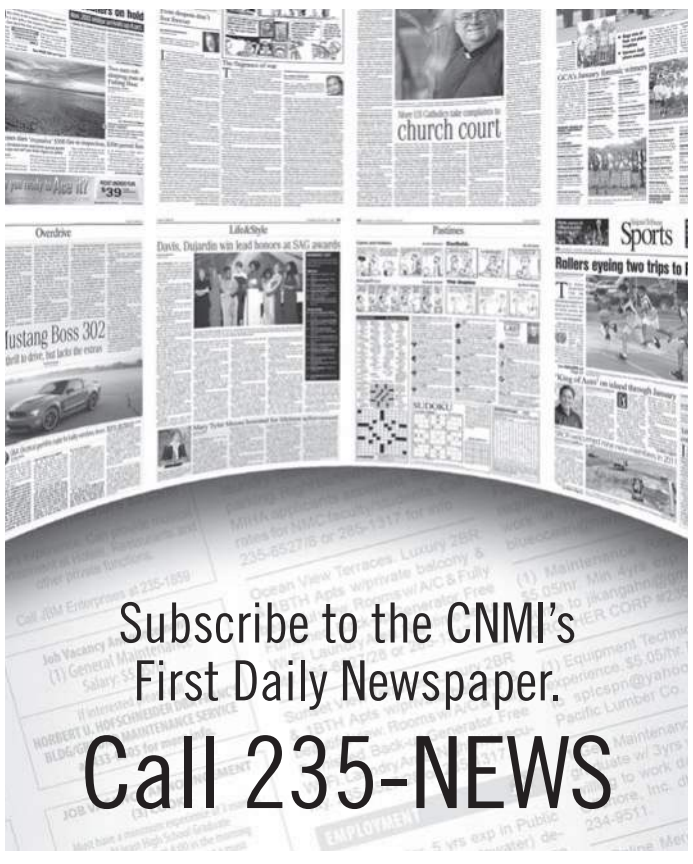

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For more information, please call Maggie Torres at (670) 234-2901 ext. 128.

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Hunter agrees to $10.5M deal with Twins

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Torii Hunter is coming back to the place it all began.

Hunter agreed to a $10.5 million, one-year contract to return to the Minnesota Twins, a person with knowledge of the agreement told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity Tuesday because the agreement had not yet been announced.

A five-time All-Star outfielder who turns 40 in July, Hunter became a star with the Twins from 1997-07 before signing a $90 million, five-year contract with the Los Angeles Angels. He then signed a $26 million, two-year deal with Detroit.

"Congrats on (at)toriihunter48 going back home," tweeted Nationals outfielder Denard Span, a former Twins center fielder who was mentored by Hunter at the start of his career.

His agreement was first reported by USA Today.

Even though Hunter has been gone for seven years, he always has had a special place in his heart for the organization that groomed him from an 18-year-old first-round draft pick in 1993 into one of the best defensive players of his generation. On trips back to Minnesota to play the Twins with the Angels and Tigers, Hunter always spoke fondly of his time with the Twins and was open to finishing his career at Target Field, the team's jewel of a ballpark that opened a few years after he left the Metrodome for Los Angeles.

Now he's going to get that chance.

In his second tour with the Twins, Hunter will be heavily relied upon to be the kind of hard-driving veteran a young clubhouse needs to set an example. The Twins have lost at least 92 games in each of the last four seasons, and the lack of leadership was a big concern for the front office and new manager Paul Molitor.

During his first run with the Twins, Hunter was a vocal pillar in the clubhouse, and the team adopted his fiery mentality. He challenged teammates when he thought they were not competing, served as a team spokesman when results were poor and, most importantly, won seven of his nine Gold Gloves while providing consistent production in the middle of the Twins order.

"It will be a honor to play alongside my hero growing up," Twins outfielder Aaron Hicks tweeted.

Hunter isn't the same defensive dynamo he was when he left for the big payday with the Angels, but he can still swing the bat. Last season he hit .286 with 17 homers and 83 RBIs for the Tigers, numbers comparable to the two seasons before then, as well. Last season Trevor Plouffe led the Twins with 80 RBIs.

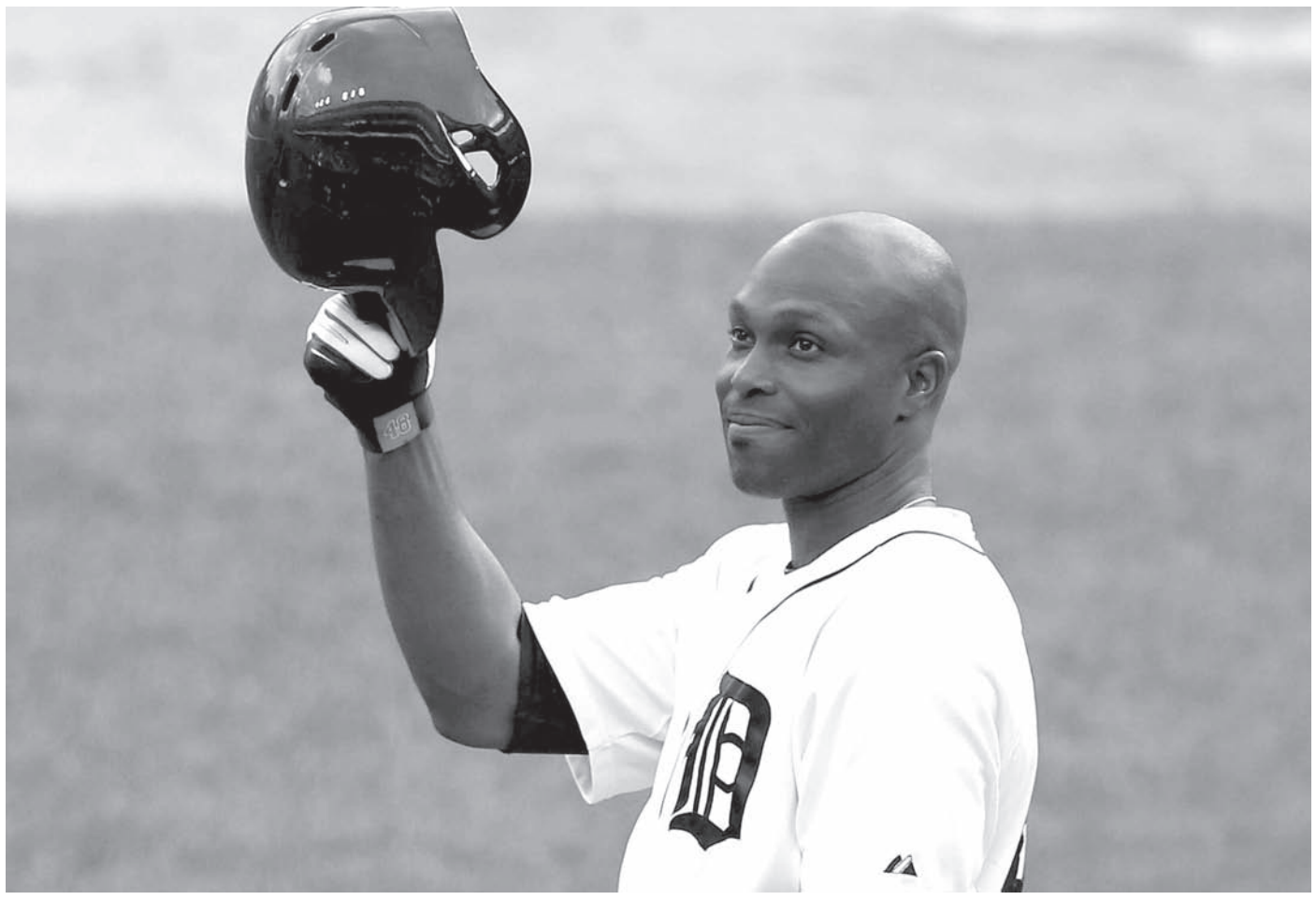
His salary with Minnesota matches the average of former Twin Michael Cuddyer in his $21 million, two-year deal with the New York Mets.

Hunter will be slotted into the everyday lineup as a right fielder and perhaps an occasional designated hitter, providing a bridge to a group of highly anticipated prospects that include prized center fielder Byron Buxton, considered by many in the organization to be the next Hunter. Oswaldo Arcia, Eddie Rosario and Miguel Sano are among the other young players who could benefit from Hunter's presence.

When Molitor took over for the fired Ron Gardenhire as manager, he spoke about the need for a strong-willed group of veterans to show the youngsters how to play the right way. Molitor did the same thing for the Twins in the final two seasons of his career, which overlapped with Hunter's first two seasons in a Twins uniform.

Hunter's return also figures to help out Joe Mauer, the face of the franchise who has always preferred to lead by example and has never been comfortable with speaking up and holding teammates accountable.

Now Hunter is back to take up that responsibility, and he has the resume, the paycheck and the on-field skills to pull it off.



Torii Hunter agreed to a $10.5 million, one-year contract to return to the Minnesota Twins.

SIDEBAR

Seager finalizes $100M, 7-year contract

SEATTLE (AP)—All-Star third baseman Kyle Seager and Seattle finalized a $100 million, seven-year contract Tuesday, the third nine-figure deal for the suddenly high-spending Mariners.

The Mariners announced the deal Tuesday, a week after the sides first reached agreement. The contract includes a club option for 2022.

"As one of our homegrown players, it is nice to know that he will remain with us for at least seven more seasons," general manager Jack Zduriencik said in a statement. "Kyle has taken a step forward each season since joining the organization in 2009, and has turned into one of the premier third baseman in the game."

Seager is coming off his first All-Star selection and Gold Glove. The 27-year-old hit .268 with a career-high 25 homers and 96 RBIs.

Seager was eligible for salary arbitration and could have become a free agent after the 2017 season. He made $540,000 last season and now joins pitcher Felix Hernandez ($175 million) and second baseman Robinson Cano ($240 million) as Mariners with $100 million-or-more deals. Seattle also has a pending deal with free-agent slugger Nelson Cruz to bolster its batting order.

"I am humbled and grateful for the opportunity that the Seattle Mariners have given me," Seager said in a statement. "This is an amazing honor for me and my family to remain with such a great organization for the foreseeable future."

Seager made just eight errors in 422 chances, and his .981 fielding percentage was the best among big league third basemen. His fielding percentage was the 10th highest for an AL third baseman since 1948.

And unlike his first two full seasons when there was little protection around him, Seager was no longer asked to be the anchor of Seattle's batting order. Having Cano in the lineup led to Seager getting better pitches and more opportunities to drive in runs. Seattle manager Lloyd McClendon also challenged Seager to be less of a pull hitter and use the entire field.

It didn't start that way in 2014. Seager was mired in a significant slump for the first three weeks, turning his struggles around when he hit a winning, ninth-inning homer against Houston on April 23 that stopped Seattle's eight-game losing streak. Seager was hitting .156 entering that game. Over his next 73 games leading into the All-Star break, Seager hit .307 with 15 homers and 61 RBIs.

He was just the third Seattle batter with at least 20 homers in three of his first four seasons in the majors.

Seager gets a $3.5 million signing bonus, payable when the contract is approved by Major League Baseball. His salaries start at $4 million next year and increase to $7.5 million in 2016, $10.5 million in 2017, $18.5 million in 2018, $19 million apiece in 2019 and 2020 and $18 million in 2021.

Seattle has a $15 million option for 2022, initially with no buyout. Depending on plate appearances and awards, the option price could escalate to $20 million and Seager could earn a buyout of up to $3 million. If Seager is traded, the option would become his.

Comeback win bolsters Dolphins' playoff chances

DAVIE, Fla. (AP)—A rare fourth-quarter rally on the road has given the Miami Dolphins a clearer path to the playoffs.

They still might need to win the rest of their games, however.

Miami is trying to end its six-year playoff drought, and a 16-13 comeback victory over the New York Jets left the Dolphins tied with five other AFC teams at 7-5. While their 6-3 record within the conference helps in potential tiebreaker scenarios, the Dolphins have little to no margin for error in their final four games, beginning Sunday at home against Baltimore (7-5).

Coach Joe Philbin said he doesn't need to talk with his players about playoff ramifications.

"They are aware. There is a lot of stimulus out there that they can tap into that their generation is more used to tapping into than mine," Philbin said Tuesday. "We've talked to them more about the month of December and the importance of each and every game in December. This one that we have coming up, Baltimore, both on paper and on film, is as good as team as we've seen."

To beat the Ravens, Philbin said, the Dolphins must play better than they did Monday night. Miami gave up 277 yards rushing and trailed for much of the game, but outscored New York 10-0 in the final quarter to escape.

The fourth-quarter comeback win was only the Dolphins' second on the road since 2005, fewest in the NFL, according to STATS.

"Bad game, good win," offensive coordinator Bill Lazor said with a grin. "We'll take it. Sometimes you have to do it that way. I hope the players come out of it with confidence in the fact that they can win a game at the end."

The Dolphins had been 0-3 in games decided by four points or less. In all three defeats they blew a fourth-quarter lead, so defensive coordinator Kevin Coyle was especially pleased to shut out the Jets over the final 22 minutes, with Reshad Jones making a game-clinching interception in the final seconds.

"I'm proud of the way the guys kept their resolve and composure," Coyle said.

"When we had to come up with plays to win the game, we were able to do that. I think we showed a lot of character, and it was noticeable growth in our team overall."

One key play was Cameron Wake's third-down sack late in the third quarter to push the Jets out of field goal range when they led 13-6.

"We had talked prior to the game about there being points where individual players were going to have to step up and make plays," Coyle said. "That was something that has been missing a little bit for us at critical times late in games. I think Cam certainly took that to heart.

"When he came off the ball on that particular play, they had two players trying to block him, and he literally ran over the top of both of them with a fierce determination to go and make the sack. He made it up in his mind that he was not going to be blocked. He ran through the wall to get to the quarterback, and it was a huge play."

The Dolphins will face the woeful Jets again in the season finale Dec. 28. Also remaining are games at AFC East leader New England and at home against last-place Minnesota.

The No. 1 issue in practice this week will be run defense, a strength most of the season. Miami has allowed 478 yards rushing in the past two games, an average of 5.7 per carry.

Missed tackles have been part of the problem, including three Monday on a single play - a 47-yard run by Chris Johnson.

"We have to tackle better," Philbin said. "This game is not overly complicated."

Durant returns, but Pelicans down Thunder

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Kevin Durant didn't look rusty when he drove past Anthony Davis for a two-handed dunk, or when he fired off any of his three 3-pointers.

The 27 points scored by the reigning NBA MVP in his comeback from a foot injury just wasn't enough for Oklahoma City to overcome Tyreke Evans' relentless drives to the hoop or Davis' all-around dominance.

Evans scored 15 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter, Davis had 25 points, 10 rebounds and four blocks, and the New Orleans Pelicans snapped a three-game skid with a 112-104 victory over the Thunder on Tuesday night.

"I was confident in myself. I knew my wind wasn't where I wanted it to be, obviously, but I felt good out there," said Durant, who missed the Thunder's first 17 games with a fractured right foot.

Thunder coach Scott Brooks said before the game he'd limit Durant to 30 minutes for his first few games back, and that was how much he played in New Orleans.

"I just got to keep putting together good days and I'll keep getting back to where I want to be," Durant added. "To get back to midseason form like I want to be is going to take some time. No excuses for me. I'm out there, I got to play hard as I can no matter what and I got to go out there and be the best leader and player I can be."

The Pelicans had three players with double-doubles. Jrue Holiday had 23 points and 10 assists while Ryan Anderson had 23 points and 11 rebounds.

"We did a great job of being disciplined on our game plan, knowing what guys were going to do and we just stayed with it for four quarters," Davis said.

"We've got to defend, rebound and run. That's what we do. That's going to get our offense going," Davis added. "When we're moving the ball, sharing the ball, cutting hard and playing for each other, it makes the game a lot easier."

Russell Westbrook, in his second game back from a hand injury for the Thunder, scored 21. But he was not nearly as efficient as his previous game, when he scored 32 points in about 24 minutes in a win over New York.

Oklahoma City trailed by as many as 19 early in the third quarter. But with a lineup of reserves, the Thunder closed the quarter on a 10-3 run during which Jeremy Lamb and Reggie Jackson each hit a pair of jumpers.

Jackson, who finished with 17 points, kept scoring early in the fourth - including a driving scoop as he was fouled and a roundhouse dunk - and the Thunder got as close as 87-82 on Perkins' layup with 10:24 left. But when Perkins complained that he was fouled while scoring, he was assessed a technical, which marked the beginning of a 13-3 Pelicans run.

New Orleans Pelicans forward Anthony Davis (23) scores on a three-point play as he is fouled by Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant (35) in the first half of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans, Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2014.

Evans scored the last eight points of the spurt, all on driving layups, hitting one after he ducked under Westbrook's attempted block on a fast-break, caught a foot in the head and spun the ball in off the glass. He wound up scoring 15 straight Pelicans points.

"I was just in a zone where I felt like I could get to the basket, to the rim and nobody was going to stop me, so I just kept attacking," Evans said.

Mavericks 132, Bulls 129

In Chicago, Monta Ellis hit three foul shots with 1.2 seconds left in the fourth quarter to tie it, then made a go-ahead 3-pointer late in the second overtime that lifted the Dallas Mavericks past the Chicago Bulls 132-129 Tuesday night.

Ellis finished with 38 points, including his trio of free throws to make it 108-all. He was fouled soon after crossing half-court, and kept the Mavs in the game.

Chicago's Derrick Rose banked in a 3-point at the overtime buzzer to force double OT.

Ellis' 3 put the Mavericks up 130-129, and Chandler Parsons added two foul shots. Rose missed a 3-point try as time expired.

Dirk Nowitzki added 22 despite shooting just 8 for 22 as Dallas won its fourth in row.

Pau Gasol led the Bulls with 29 points and 14 rebounds. Jimmy Butler had 23 points, Mike Dunleavy 20 and Rose 18.

The Bulls had won two in a row. They dropped to 2-4 at the United Center in their first home game since Nov. 15 following a seven-game road trip.

The Mavericks led 86-76 with 11 minutes to play. Chicago rallied to take the lead, and Butler's two foul shots made it 102-96 with 2:42 to go.

Trailing 106-103, Dallas got the ball back with 14.6 seconds left. Instead of attempting a tying 3-pointer, Ellis drove for a two-point basket with 4.5 seconds to play.

Gasol was fouled with 4.2 seconds remaining and made both free throws for a 108-105 edge.

The Mavericks didn't have any timeouts, so they had to go the length of the court. As Ellis crossed midcourt, Kirk Hinrich went in for an intentional foul.

Ellis sensed it and immediately went into shooting position. He was awarded three free throws and made them all.

Rose's shot off the backboard from nearly straight away tied it at 121 at the end of the first OT.

Cavaliers 111, Bucks 108

In Cleveland, Kyrie Irving scored 28 points, LeBron James had 26 points and 10 assists and Mike Miller provided a much-needed spark off Cleveland's bench, leading the Cavaliers to their fourth straight win.

Kevin Love added 27 points for the Cavs, who got all they could handle from the young Bucks.

Brandon Knight scored 24 and 19-year-old rookie Jabari Parker, the No. 2 overall pick in this year's draft, had 22 points for Milwaukee.

Miller, who wasn't used by coach David Blatt in the previous three games, made two 3-pointers, grabbed seven rebounds and had a key block in 18 minutes — all in the second half.

Trail Blazers 105, Nuggets 103

In Denver, LaMarcus Aldridge scored a season-high 39 points and set up the winning basket on a pass inside to Robin Lopez with 1.3 seconds left, helping Portland rally for the win.

Aldridge received an inbounds pass and dished it to Lopez, who sealed off J.J. Hickson with his hip for an easy layup.

Danilo Gallinari's 3-pointer at the buzzer was well short as the Blazers won their seventh straight over Denver.

Aldridge also had 11 rebounds for his fifth double-double in six games. Damian Lillard scored 17 points, and Wesley Matthews added 15.

Ty Lawson led Denver with 24 points and 13 assists on the second night of a back-to-back.

Hawks 109, Celtics 105

In Atlanta, Kyle Korver scored 24 points, and the Hawks rallied to beat the struggling Celtics.

Paul Millsap added 19 points for Atlanta, which has won three straight and five of six. Korver went 6 for 7 from 3-point range.

Boston has lost five straight and eight of nine. Jeff Green and Jared Sullinger had 25 points apiece for the Celtics, and Rajon Rondo set a season high with 19 assists.

The Celtics got off to a fast start and led by as many as 23 points in the first half. But the Hawks erased much of Boston's lead with a big third quarter and then pulled ahead early in the final period.

Nets 98, Knicks 93

In New York, Brook Lopez scored 23 points, Joe Johnson added 22 and Brooklyn improved to 2-0 this season against its city rival.

Deron Williams finished with 19 points for the Nets, who won for just the third time in 10 games after blowing most of a 16-point, second-half lead.

Carmelo Anthony had 20 points, nine rebounds and six assists, but missed a potential tying 3-pointer with about 5 seconds left as the Knicks lost their fifth straight. They fell to 4-15.

Jose Calderon had 19 points and seven assists for New York, and Amare Stoudemire added 17 points and nine rebounds in his third start this season.

Suns 116, Pacers 99

In Phoenix, Goran Dragic scored 34 points, Eric Bledsoe had 27 and the Suns earned their fourth straight victory over the Pacers.

The Suns' starting guards combined for 22-for-35 shooting. Dragic matched his season high for a game with 22 first-half points, and Bledsoe scored 21 in the second half.

Gerald Green and Markieff Morris added 15 points apiece for the Suns, who broke the game open in the final seven minutes.

C.J. Miles scored 17 for Indiana, and Roy Hibbert had 15 points and 10 rebounds.

Lakers 106, Pistons 96

In Auburn Hills, Lakers star Kobe Bryant scored all 12 of his points in a row, leading an impressive flurry in the third quarter.

The Pistons held Bryant scoreless in the first half, but still lost their ninth in a row.

Bryant began the day as the NBA's leading scorer at almost 27 points per game. His burst in the third helped the Lakers to an 81-65 lead heading into the final period.

Los Angeles had six players score in double figures, including each of its starters. Jordan Hill scored 22 points, and reserve Nick Young had 19.

Josh Smith led Detroit with 18 points, and Andre Drummond added eight points and 13 rebounds.

Raptors 117, Kings 109

In Sacramento, Kyle Lowry scored 27 points and made a pivotal jumper with 57 seconds left to lift the Toronto Raptors over the Sacramento Kings 117-109 on Tuesday night.

Terrence Ross matched his season high with 20 points and reserve James Johnson added 19 points and seven rebounds. The East-leading Raptors had lost two in a row.

The Raptors, playing their second consecutive game without guard DeMar DeRozan, led by as much as 15 but were clinging to a 111-107 advantage late in the fourth quarter when Lowry made a 20-foot jumper.

Rudy Gay had 20 points and a career-high 10 assists for Sacramento. The Kings have lost four straight.

3 earn top seeding in SEDA Bud Light Cup

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Naked Fish Ridin' Dartty, and the Jokers X-ecutioners and Spartans clinched the top seeding in their respective divisions heading into the Bud Light Cup of the 2014 Saipan Electronic Darts Association League.

The Ridin' Darrty sealed the No. 1 ranking in the A division after a 15-2 crushing of Smoke Pub Hunters to finish the elimination round with a 168-87 slate, 8-wins ahead of closest pursuer Sand Juvy Predator (160-95).

The Predators, a 13-4 conqueror of the Route33 Mafia, will also advance to the Bud Light Cup along with the Sand Juvy Outlawz, which scored a similar 13-4 decision over the Smoke Pub Comatose.

The Sand Juvy 1010 Proofers and the Sand Juvy Sakude closed out their respective campaigns with identical 10-7 wins over the Blood Brothers and Mixblood Shooters.

In the Chichirika C category, the Spartans ended their dominating season with a 13-2 win over the Joe's DNA Jump It! to finish with a division best 138-87 slate.

The Barcode Breakers, despite a 9-6 setback to the Smoke Pub Snipers, also clinched a spot in the Bud Light Cup after finishing second in the standings with a 136-99 mark. The Jokers Disciples (125-100) came in at third after escaping with an 8-7 victory over the Sand Juvy Ta Chagi.

Smoke Pub Bull It! and Poseidon Feelin' Lucky pulled off similar 8-7 wins over VFW 'Ombak' Hit'em Up and Blue Koi, respectively,

The X-ecutioners (151-74), sister teams Smoke Pub Marupok (139-86) and D'Mekaniks (126-99), and Route33 Mixblood Shooters are also shoo-ins in the Tuesday B division of the Bud Light Cup.

Bud Light Cup matches in the Ladies, Masters, Kingfisher, Fanihi and Flame Tree divisions, respectively, are ongoing.

The Jokers Kitty Kats, Naked Fish Dartin' Divas, Smoke Pub Ladies Bull-It, and the Jokers G-Side Shooters are contending for the Ladies crown. The final match will be played on Dec. 8.

Sister squads Route33 Chagi Fan and Dart Knights, Naked Fish Hafa Mas, and the Oleai Rebels are the remaining teams in the Kingfisher division. The Bud Light Cup champion will be known on Dec. 10.

In the Masters class, the title contenders include Jokers Destroyers, Sand Juvy Shoot Balut, Jokers TRA-Bull Makerz, and Smoke Pub Master Outlawz and the Bud Light Cup champ will be named on Dec. 10.

The winning teams in the Fanihi and Flame Tree divisions will be known on Dec. 18. Both divisions will play the quarterfinal round today, while the semis will be held on Dec. 11.

Smoke Pub D'Mekaniks, Sand Juvy Put3ska, Route33 Mixblood Shooters, Smoke Pub 80 Proofers, VFW Warriors, Route33 Bud Kings, Sand Juvy No Fear and Jokers Chagi Fan are the competing teams in the Fanihi division.

In the Flame Tree class, there are eight squads battling for the division crown: Naked Fish Na'Gupu, Ridin' Darrty and Oneshot, Sand Juvy Dart Balas, Joe's Serial Killaz, Jonny's Kyodai, Jokers Warriors ,and Smoke Pub Team Figan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Naked Fish Dartin' Divas members pose for a photo during a break in their game in the Ladies division of the SEDA League.

TUDELA

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they downed Eda and Cho, too last Saturday, 6-2, 6-4.

In the boys U12, Aditya Rai and Sean Lee took the division championship following a 6-4, 7-5 win over Eugene Park and Allan Lee.

The two pairs battled for the championship after beating similar foes. Rai and Sean Lee first dueled Brian Kim and Jeffrey Seo last Friday and notched a 6-1, 6-4 win to boost their title bid. Park and Allen Lee then met Kim and Seo last Saturday and also needed only two sets to get the win, 6-4, 6-2.

In the girls divisions, Tania Tan and Julia Ishikawa and Tiara Imai and Erika Tuttle were named champions in the U14 and U12 age groups, respectively.

Tan and Ishikawa gained the division crown after a 6-0 7-6 (9-7) triumph over Mimi Sakano and Ami Tsukagoshi last Sunday. The eventual champions also downed Malika Miyawaki and Grace Choi last Friday, 6-1, 6-3, for an unbeaten record in the doubles contest. Tsukagoshi and Sakano topped Choi and Miyawaki, too, 6-1, 6-3, to take the runner-up honors.

In the U12 age group, Tuttle and Imai eked out a 6-4, 6-4 win over Maria Gregoire and Ellie Epley last Sunday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Court 1 to bag the division crown. Before their straight set wins over Epley and Gregoire, Tuttle and Imai also made short work of Michelle Ryu and Hana Ojima last Saturday, 6-2, 6-1.

Ojima and Ryu were winless in the division as they also lost to eventual runners-up Gregoire and Epley, who cruised to a 6-1, 6-4 victory in the opener last Friday.

M-LEAGUE

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the 75th minute.

Wild Bill's finished the season with a 3-0-1 win-draw-loss record and had the second most goals in the field with 12, while allowing its foes to make four goals.

MP United registered the most goals in Division 1 with its 12 and gave up three, but landed at the No. 3 spot with its 2-1-1 card. Tan Holdings FC, which nailed five goals and gave up nine, placed fourth with its 1-0-3 slate, beating KFAS (1-0-3) in the tiebreak, while Paire was at the cellar with its 0-1-3 record.

The winner of the MP United-Paire tiff will meet Wild Bill's in the first semis game on Dec. 14 at 12pm, while the victor of the Tan Holdings-KFAS clash will challenge Inter Godfather's in the second semis match the same day at 2:30pm. Winners of the Final Four matches will duel for the Cup on Dec. 21 at 6pm.

In the Plate Championship, which is for Division 2 squads, two matches will also take place this Sunday, while the final first round match is set for Dec. 9. Sun Palace and the CNMI Women's National Team will collide in this Sunday's 5pm tiff, while Shirley's FC will face the Thundercats in the 7:30pm game. On Dec. 9 at 6:30pm, World Resort will square off with Kanoa FC at 6:30pm.

Matansa Football Club, which topped the division with its perfect 5-0-0 record, earned a bye in the first round and will not be playing in the Plate Championship until Dec. 14 in the semis against the winner of the World Resort-Kanoa FC pairing. The other semifinal game on Dec. 14 will feature the victors of the Sun Palace-Women's National Team and Shirley's FC-Thundercats matches. The Plate finals will also be held on Dec. 21 at 3:30pm before the Cup Championship.

Sun Palace finished second in the group with its 4-0-1 slate, followed by Shirley's (3-0-2), World Resort (2-1-2), Kanoa (1-2-3), Thundercats (1-1-3), and CNMI Women's National Team (0-0-5). Matansa scored the most goals in the division with 24, while Sun Palace allowed the least goals (6) and tied Shirley's for the second most goals made with 15.

Sports Hall of Fame nominees due today

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Nomination papers for the candidates for the 2015 Class of the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame are due in today's Northern Marianas Sports Association 7pm meeting at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

Nomination must be submitted in writing and must include the individual's name, age, and years in his or her sport. Statistics and other proof of the individual's contribution to CNMI sports must also be included in the documents.

The deadline was set as the special committee NMSA board created needs to deliberate and discuss information about the nominees before making a decision on who will join an elite cast of 18 earlier inductees.

Kurt Barnes, Jose Tenorio Sablan, Ricardo Duenas, Antonio Benavente, Jean and Bill Sakovich, Mike Villagomez, Jeff Race, Frank Castro, Tony Rogolifoi, Tony Satur, Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios, Cecilia Lisua, Bertha Chong, Mel Sakisat, Michael White, and the late Jess Wabol and Irene Alpet were enshrined on the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame.

The committee and the entire NMSA membership also want to keep the names of the candidates a secret before revealing them in time for next year's NMSA awards banquet, where they will also name the Male and Female Athletes of the Year, and TSL Foundation Male and Female Student Athletes of the Year.

Hall of Fame inductee and NMSA vice president Kurt Barnes said any individual, not only the sports federation, can nominate an athlete or official that will be inducted to the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame.

"However, a nominee must be in a sport whose federation is in good standing and a NMSA member," said Barnes, who is also the head of the committee screening the candidates.

Athletes, coach, officials, and sports administrators from each member federation are eligible for nomination. Athletes and officials must be at least 35 years old and should be involved in his or her sports federation for at least 10 years. For coaches and administrators, age must be at least 45 years old and minimum involvement in sports is 15 years.

All nominees must be a U.S. citizen or have achieved distinction as a CNMI representative and must have resided in the Commonwealth for at least 10 years.

The nomination papers and other documents can be dropped off at the Ada gym or email it to Barnes at dr.kurtbarnes@rocketmail.com.

For more information, call Rogolifoi or Elias Rangamar at 234-6674 or Dr. Barnes at 235-5853.

MIEKO

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races in Micronesia.

"I don't know who are the other riders joining the women's side but I will push myself hard and give my 100 percent to win," said Carey, who previously won the women's crown three times.

"I consider Saipan to be my hometown so I want to perform and be at my best when I compete at home. I will be 100 percent ready on Saturday," added Carey, who placed second to Australian Jodi Willet last year.

Carey, who moved to Guam in 2012, won the inaugural Hell of the Marianas in 2007 and successfully defended her women's division title the following year. She last won the crown in 2010.

The 36-year-old two-time XTERRA Japan women's champion said she is well aware how challenging the Hell of the Marianas' course is but believes her year-long training plus a brief stop to compete in the XTERRA World in October prepared her for this weekend's race.

"I trained the whole year. We're lucky that Saipan and Guam do not have winter so I'm able to train non-stop. I was a bit tired at first after coming back from the XTERRA World Championship but now I'm ready for the Hell of the Marianas," said Carey.

"It will be another challenge for me in the Hell of the Marianas as we go north first. I hope I can hang on to a group of a few riders on the ride to Banzai Cliff to Pacific Islands Club," added the top female rider in the 65-mile Tour of Guam held almost three weeks ago.

Carey, who now works as an instructor and personal trainer at Nu-Form Pilates Studio, said she didn't had a hard time adjusting in Guam since it also has a very active and vibrant multisport community.

"I'm doing well in Guam, which has many great athletes who push and motivate me. Guam has a great sports community. It has clubs for cycling, running, and triathlon. And each club has a lot of great members."

Carey, whose best time in the Hell of the Marianas is 3:17:00, said she's been enjoying her training session with her new coach who helped her become stronger and faster physically. The new mentor is also giving her the proper motivation, mentally.

When Carey returns to Saipan this weekend, she will be bringing along 15 other Guam riders and is looking forward to a friendly competition with their counterparts on the island.

"I hope Guam and Saipan riders push each other in this kind of events. I am looking forward to see my friends on Saipan and race with them."

2014 NMA Turkey Trot Fun Run

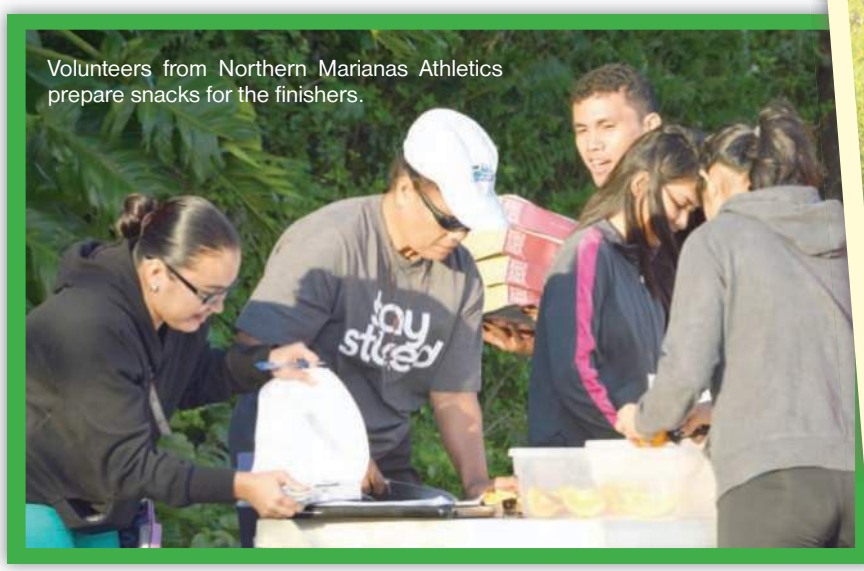
PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Wataru Kadokura, left, and Mel Manibusan head to the finish line of last week's 2014 NMA Turkey Trot Fun Run.

Dylan Mister heads to the finish line.

Two young male runners near the finish line.

Ken Pierson and his children are about to cross the finish line of the race to Mt. Tapochao.



Volunteers from Northern Marianas Athletics prepare snacks for the finishers.

Young runners are about to complete one final climb.

Jenni Russell, left, and Cesar Danao smile to the camera.

From left, Kimiko McKagan, Rommel Buenaflor, and Dan Calvo keep their pace as they head to Capital Hill.

A young female runner joins the company of adult participants on their way to Capital Hill.

Runners slow down as they approach one of the uphill roads in Capital Hill.

Hunter agrees to $10.5M deal with Twins

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Sports

Durant returns, but Pelicans down Thunder

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Tudela, Kim fight back

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Vincent Tudela, seen here serving to Clayton Izuka during their boys U14 singles semis match, teamed up with Tony Kim in ruling the boys U14 doubles event of the 6th Tan Holdings Tennis Classic last Sunday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Vincent Tudela and Tony Kim redeemed themselves in the boys U14 doubles event of the 6th Tan Holdings Tennis Classic after falling short in their bids in the singles competition.

Tudela and Kim, who finished second and third behind boys U14 singles champion Robbie Schorr, topped the round-robin doubles event after sweeping their two games over the weekend at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts.

The pair first defeated Schorr and Steven Goodwin last Friday, 6-4, 6-3, and then had another straight set win over A.J. Hudkins and Ken Song last Sunday, 6-1, 6-0, to secure the doubles championship. Schorr, who downed Tudela in the singles finale, 6-0, 6-4, this time settled for runner-up honors with Goodwin as they earlier dominated Hudkins and Song, 6-2, 6-1.

Meanwhile, four other pairs were crowned champions in the opening week of the two-weekend tournament.

In the boys U18, Michael Ren and Luther Lizama also prevailed in the round-robin competition.

The winning pair started its title bid in the division with a 6-0, 6-3 triumph over Haruya Eda and Woo Sun Cho last Friday. Ren and Lizama then clinched the championship last Sunday, following a 6-3, 6-3 victory against Steven Lee and Colin Ramsey. Ramsey and Lee ended up at second place, as

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M-League holds Cup, Plate Championship

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

M-League will conclude the season with the staging of the Cup and Plate Championship, starting this Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

The Cup Championship, which will feature teams in Division 1, will have two games in the opener this weekend with MP United Football Club taking on Paire FC at 12pm and Tan Holdings FC clashing with Korean Football Association on Saipan on 2:30pm. Both are win-or-go home matches with the victors advancing to the semis and joining Wild Bill's and Inter Godfather's.

Inter Godfather's and Wild Bill's drew byes in the first round of the Cup Championship and automatically marched into the semifinals after clinching the Top 2 spots in fall season of the M-League.

Inter Godfather's was unbeaten in four games this season, scored eight goals, and gave up two. It recorded its last win in the league against Paire FC, 1-0, off Chris Nelson's goal in

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Inter Godfather's Arkie Reusora, left, and Kanoa Football Club's Marc Mora go after the ball during a game in the M-League early this year. M-League will conclude its season with the Plate and Cup Championship.

Mieko aims to reclaim throne in 'Hell'

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Mieko Carey has no idea on who will be her toughest opponent in the women's division of the 2014 Hell of the Marianas as the former Saipan triathlete aims to rule the eighth edition of one of the biggest bicycle

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mieko Carey, seen here doing the bike leg of this year's Tagaman Triathlon, will be back on Saipan to compete in this Saturday's Hell of Marianas.